

Clinton Tells Italy He's 'Heartsick'

President Pledges 'No-Holds-Barred' Probe of Cable-Car Disaster

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton said Friday he was "heartsick" over a fatal cable-car disaster in Italy caused by a low-flying U.S. warplane, and promised a "no-holds-barred" investigation.

"The whole thing has been an agony for the people of Italy," Mr. Clinton said at a televised White House news conference. He said he had telephoned the Italian prime minister, Romano Prodi, "and I told him that I was heartsick about it, that I would make absolutely sure there was a no-holds-barred full investigation of what happened and that the Italians would be kept fully informed."

Mr. Clinton said military flights such as the one involved in the disaster were "inherently dangerous," but pledged, "I will do everything I can to find out what happened and take appropriate action and to satisfy the people of Italy that we have done the right thing."

The U.S. military acknowledged earlier on Friday that the EA-6B Prowler that caused the disaster in the Dolomites in which 20 people were killed was flying far too low. The twin-engine Marine Corps jet is based at Aviano, Italy, part of the NATO-led effort to patrol Bosnia.

In Bologna on Friday, Mr. Prodi said there could be no justification for the low altitude of the plane.

"It was a clear, indisputable violation of the law," he said in a speech at a trade union meeting. "Nothing can justify flying so low as to cut the cables of a cable car."

The plane slashed through the cables at the resort of Cavalese in northern Italy, sending the victims hurtling to their deaths on Tuesday. The dead included a 13-year-old boy and tourists from Italy, Germany, Belgium, Poland, the Netherlands and Austria.

The U.S. military also said Friday that it had handed over a flight recorder to Italian investigators.

Officials at Aviano had said the plane carried no voice or flight data recorder. But late Thursday, it handed over a "mission recorder," said Sergeant Tom Adams, a Marine spokesman at the base.

"There is nothing called specifically a 'black box' involved in all this," Sergeant Adams said. "The thing that's been in question in the last couple of days is actually a mission recorder."

The device records certain elements of the flight path of the airplane.

The spokesman said he did not have any information on what was on the recorder.

But Francantonio Granero, the Italian prosecutor investigating the accident, said he was told some of the data might be missing because the device was improperly removed from the plane.

He said he was told the pilot removed the device when he returned to base on Tuesday after the deadly flight. But the pilot neglected to first turn off an electrical circuit that may have resulted in some loss of data, Mr. Granero said he was told.

Authorities at the base issued a statement Friday saying the plane was "well

below the approved minimum altitude" when it severed the cable.

It also said the cable car was within the plane's flight path, a corridor 10 nautical miles (18.5 kilometers) wide.

A key point of dispute has been whether the pilot was flying lower than the 500-foot (152-meter) minimum.

"There would not have been any danger had the plane kept to the rules," Defense Minister Beniamino Andreatta told a special joint session of the Italian Parliament on Thursday.

"What happened is incomprehensible," he said.

Mr. Andreatta said the plane flew under the cable and that it was nearly 6 miles (9.5 kilometers) off its assigned route.

Defense Secretary William Cohen telephoned Mr. Andreatta to offer apologies for the accident and promise it would be fully investigated.

Mr. Cohen said in an appearance before a House of Representatives committee on Thursday that the U.S. government was immediately establishing a \$100,000 fund for families of the victims while the accident was being investigated.

"We wanted to make this gesture in their time of need," he said.

Lieutenant Daniel Christmas, a Marine spokesman at the Pentagon, said on Friday in response to questions that the plane's crew would normally remain under U.S. legal jurisdiction under a routine status-of-forces agreement between the United States and Italy.

(Reuters, AP)



U.S. General Michael Delong leaving the Trento tribunal Friday after meeting with the local prosecutor who is investigating the accident.

BRIEFLY

35-Hour-Week Bill Advances in France

PARIS — The French National Assembly resumed debate Friday on legislation to cut the workweek from 39 to 35 hours after both left and right reached a compromise overnight.

Deputies approved a compromise Thursday that would let businesses keep the current 39-hour week while allowing workers some additional time off over an annual period. The deal followed 10 days of bitter debate over the Socialist-backed bill. Parliament is scheduled to vote on the final bill Tuesday.

The Communist-led CGT trade union and the independent Force Ouvrière group both criticized the compromise, saying it would enable businesses to avoid creating jobs. Business leaders have said the law would more likely kill jobs than create them because it would raise companies' labor costs. (AFP)

Hungary Dam Deal Angers Ecologists

BUDAPEST — Environmentalists accused Hungary on Friday of flouting an international Court ruling by deciding to build a new Danube dam to support Slovakia's Gabčíkovo hydroelectric project.

On Thursday, Hungary approved in principle an agreement with Slovakia that includes the building of a \$1 billion dam either at Nagymaros, 40 kilometers (25 miles) north of Budapest, or at nearby Pilismarot. Slovakia says the dam, 100 kilometers downstream from Gabčíkovo, would help it cope with costly fluctuations in water levels at the Gabčíkovo facility.

"The fact that a second dam is being contemplated is absolutely ludicrous in terms of having an international court look at an issue and then ignoring the decisions and commentary that it makes," Philip Weller of the World Wide Fund for Nature said. (Reuters)

Austrian President Rebuffs a Pension

VIENNA — President Thomas Klestil of Austria, entangled in a controversy about his income, denied Friday that he had applied for a civil service pension on top of his generous salary as head of state.

Mr. Klestil, who is seeking a second six-year term of office in elections set for April, reiterated that the first payment of a 26,000 schilling (\$2,050) monthly pension had arrived in his bank account without his prior knowledge. "The pension payment to me a week ago happened because of a loophole in the law for which I bear no responsibility," he said.

Late Thursday, the presidential office announced that Mr. Klestil was giving up the pension and that he had asked Parliament for a review of pension regulations for politicians. (Reuters)

For the Record

The upper house of the German Parliament voted Friday to reduce constitutional privacy guarantees in private residences, clearing the way for a controversial law allowing electronic surveillance as a crime-fighting measure. (AP)

VW's 'Last Supper' Ads Upset Paris Archbishop

PARIS — The Roman Catholic archbishop of Paris criticized a French advertising company Friday for using the "Last Supper" and other holy themes to sell Volkswagen's Golf automobiles.

In an article published in the daily Le Monde, Cardinal Jean-Marie Lustiger called the ad campaign by the German carmaker's agency in France, DDB-Needham France, a cynical attempt to sell products by any means.

"Today, it's the Christ of Holy Thursday for a new Volkswagen, and tomorrow, who will it be, for yogurts and the new generation of portable telephones?" he asked.

France's bishops said Wednesday that they were suing Volkswagen and DDB-Needham France over ads depicting Christ praising the Golf at the Last Supper.

Germany Snuffs Out Bill to Restrict Smoking

By Alan Cowell
New York Times Service

BONN — Seventeen million German smokers wheezed a sigh of collective relief Friday after Parliament voted down a law that would have brought the beginning of nonsmoking regulations to one of Europe's most nicotine-prone lands.

Edgar Bauer, a nonsmoking editor at the German Press Agency, was not one of them: Parliament's 336-256 vote Thursday, he wrote, meant that smokers could continue

to "dump into the air stinking, toxic and cancerous substances, in public and at their place of work, without general smoking bans and without fear of a fine."

Karsten Vilmar, the head of the German doctors' association, was not thrilled, either. People, he said, were not permitted to break wind in front of other people. "Why should they be allowed to smoke?" he asked.

The answer, arguably, lay in the relationship between Chancellor Helmut Kohl's government and a tobacco industry that pays about

\$14 billion a year in taxes at a time when the authorities are desperately seeking to balance their books so the country can qualify for the European common currency, the euro.

Even the health minister, Horst Seehofer — one of those same European Union health ministers who warn in writing on each pack of cigarettes sold in their countries that "Smoking damages health" and "Smoking causes cancer" — voted against the smoking ban. Mr. Seehofer said the legislation would have intruded into private lives.

Germany and Austria were the only two countries at a meeting of European Union health ministers this year to openly oppose a ban on cigarette advertising in Europe.

In Germany, the fog of cigarette smoke may still be found wafting over food in restaurants and along the corridors of bureaucratic power. There is no overall legislative protection for nonsmokers.

The defeated law would have required all companies to establish smoke-free areas and set aside rooms where smoking was permitted.

Balloonists Break A Second Record

The Associated Press

GENEVA — Three European balloonists set a second world record Friday, despite failing in their bid to orbit the globe.

Cruising toward Burma, the Breitling Orbiter 2 achieved the longest-ever nonstop unrefueled flight at 11:09 GMT. It beat a record set in December 1996, when Dick Rutan and Jeana Yeager flew around the world in nine days and four minutes in an experimental plane.

On Tuesday, they broke the record for the longest time spent airborne in a balloon. That record — six days, two hours and 44 minutes — was set last year by the American balloonist Steve Fossett.

The balloonists abandoned their round-the-world attempt Wednesday because of China's delay in granting permission to enter its airspace. "For us the goal was really to fly around the world," a spokesman said.

TRAVEL UPDATE

Schiphol Flight Protest

THE HAGUE (Reuters) — Hundreds of people from the Dutch airline industry gathered outside Parliament on Friday to protest government environmental policy that has capped the number of flights at Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport.

Cabin crews from KLM Royal Dutch Airlines and charter airlines were joined by ground personnel from Schiphol and by travel agents. They petitioned the government to relax noise restrictions around Schiphol and allow an additional 40,000 flights this year at the airport.

Poles Look to Borders

WARSAW (AFP) — As a prospective member of the European Union, Poland is considering requiring visas for visitors from Belarus, Russia and Ukraine, Foreign Minister Bronislaw Geremek said Friday.

"Poland's future in the European Union is at stake," he said. The aim would be to stop members of organized crime and drug-trafficking groups from entering the EU via Poland.

WEATHER

Europe				Forecast for Sunday through Tuesday, as provided by AccuWeather.				Asia			
City	Today	Low	High	City	Today	Low	High	City	Today	Low	High
Algeria	72/82	64/66	84/86	Amman	49/59	49/59	74/74	Almaty	49/59	49/59	74/74
Amman	49/59	49/59	74/74	Ankara	39/49	39/49	59/59	Beijing	39/49	39/49	59/59
Ankara	39/49	39/49	59/59	Bangkok	29/39	29/39	49/49	Bombay	29/39	29/39	49/49
Bangkok	29/39	29/39	49/49	Bombay	29/39	29/39	49/49	Calcutta	29/39	29/39	49/49
Bombay	29/39	29/39	49/49	Calcutta	29/39	29/39	49/49	Chongming	29/39	29/39	49/49
Calcutta	29/39	29/39	49/49	Chongming	29/39	29/39	49/49	Hong Kong	29/39	29/39	49/49
Chongming	29/39	29/39	49/49	Hong Kong	29/39	29/39	49/49	Islamabad	29/39	29/39	49/49
Hong Kong	29/39	29/39	49/49	Islamabad	29/39	29/39	49/49	Karachi	29/39	29/39	49/49
Islamabad	29/39	29/39	49/49	Karachi	29/39	29/39	49/49	Kolkata	29/39	29/39	49/49
Karachi	29/39	29/39	49/49	Kolkata	29/39	29/39	49/49	Manila	29/39	29/39	49/49
Kolkata	29/39	29/39	49/49	Manila	29/39	29/39	49/49	Phnom Penh	29/39	29/39	49/49
Manila	29/39	29/39	49/49	Phnom Penh	29/39	29/39	49/49	Shanghai	29/39	29/39	49/49
Phnom Penh	29/39	29/39	49/49	Shanghai	29/39	29/39	49/49	Singapore	29/39	29/39	49/49
Shanghai	29/39	29/39	49/49	Singapore	29/39	29/39	49/49	Taipei	29/39	29/39	49/49
Singapore	29/39	29/39	49/49	Taipei	29/39	29/39	49/49	Tokyo	29/39	29/39	49/49
Taipei	29/39	29/39	49/49	Tokyo	29/39	29/39	49/49	Vientiane	29/39	29/39	49/49
Tokyo	29/39	29/39	49/49	Vientiane	29/39	29/39	49/49				

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The Leading Hotels of the World

Selling Blacks on Cigarettes

Transit Ad Blitz Aimed at a Class of Heavy Smokers

By Barry Meier
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — A steady flow of tobacco industry documents released in recent days is providing the broadest and most detailed look at how the industry lavishly marketed cigarette brands like Kool to some of its heaviest-smoking customers, blacks.

The internal company records, from tobacco giants, including the R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. and the Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp., show how the cigarette makers ran advertising blitzes in magazines, on billboards and buses and in other media to attract blacks, especially to mentholated brands such as Salem and Kool.

While the marketing of certain cigarette brands to blacks had long been evident, the documents provided new evidence of the importance of black smokers to the companies. They also led to calls from African-American and other minority lawmakers, as well as from Dr. Louis Sullivan, the former secretary of health and human services, that some proceeds from any tobacco legislation enacted by Congress be directed toward minority communities.

One 1973 Brown & Williamson document, for example, showed that 17 percent of the company's promotional budget for Kool was spent on marketing to blacks, who made up only 10 percent of the population.

That same document, which looked at smoking trends among young people from the age of 16 to 24, recommended spending more to promote Kool on buses and in subways even though the company was already using "virtually all known vehicles to reach blacks effectively and efficiently."

"With this additional transit effort, Kool will cover the top 25 markets in terms of absolute Negroes," the document stated.

Most of the documents at issue were made public at recent congressional hearings on the proposed \$368.5 billion tobacco settlement, including one held Wednesday before the House Judiciary Committee.

Representative Bennie Thompson, Democrat of Mississippi, who heads a tobacco task force within the Congressional Black Caucus, said the agreement reached last year between tobacco producers and about 40 state attorneys general does not address the fact that minority groups have been among the most affected over the years by both cigarette marketing and smoking-related diseases.

"It was pretty much a white male group that put the settlement together, and the document reflects that," the lawmaker said.

The tobacco industry has long played a dual role in the minority community. Manufacturers such as Philip Morris Cos. have supported minority public affairs events and some politicians, and poured millions of dollars into advertising in newspapers that serve minority communities. But the rate of smoking among both blacks and American Indians is higher than the national average, federal statistics show.

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BRIEFLY

35-Hour-Week Bill Advances in France

PARIS — The French National Assembly resumed debate Friday on legislation to cut the workweek from 39 to 35 hours after both left and right reached a compromise overnight.

Deputies approved a compromise Thursday that would let businesses keep the current 39-hour week while allowing workers some additional time off over an annual period. The bill followed 10 days of bitter debate over the Socialist-backed bill. The final bill is scheduled to vote on Tuesday.

Hungary Dam Deal Angers Ecologists

BUDAPEST — Environmentalists accused Hungary on Friday of ignoring an international court ruling by deciding to build a new dam on the Danube river to support Slovakia's Gabčíkovo hydroelectric project. On Thursday, Hungary approved in principle an agreement with Slovakia that includes the building of a \$1 billion dam on the Danube, 40 kilometers (25 miles) north of Budapest, at near the Pannónia river. Slovakia says the dam would generate 100 megawatts of electricity. Ecologists say the dam would destroy the Danube's natural habitat and would help to cope with floods in the region.

The fact that a second dam is being contemplated is absolutely ridiculous in terms of having an international court ruling at an time and then ignoring the decision as a "technicality," says a spokesman for the World Wildlife Fund.

Austrian President Rebuffs a Pension

VIENNA — President Thomas Klestil on Friday rebuffed a proposal to grant him a pension for life after his term in office ends in 2000. The proposal was made by the Austrian government. Klestil, 74, has served as president since 1986. He is a member of the Social Democratic Party. The proposal was part of a package of reforms to the pension system. Klestil said he did not want a special pension and would accept the same conditions as other officials.

For the Record

The upper house of the German parliament on Friday rejected a proposal to grant a pension for life to the former president of the Federal Republic of Germany, Ronald Reagan. The proposal was made by the German government. Reagan, 74, has served as president since 1986. He is a member of the Republican Party. The proposal was part of a package of reforms to the pension system. Reagan said he did not want a special pension and would accept the same conditions as other officials.

Clinton Strategy: A Covert Riposte

Aides Target Starr and the Media

By Richard L. Berke
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — Responding to damaging news accounts about President Bill Clinton's relationship with a former intern, the White House has begun an aggressive behind-the-scenes counterattack, accusing the media of one-sided coverage based on leaked information from Kenneth Starr, the White House independent counsel.

Several White House officials warned reporters that if Mr. Starr or his associates disclosed confidential grand jury information to them, that would violate federal laws. While the officials stopped short of actually accusing Mr. Starr of leaking information, they were unusually pointed in making that suggestion.

"When I see story after story that cites sources close to the investigation, I think it's fair enough to call into question that someone, somewhere is leaking information," said Paul Begala, a senior adviser to the president. "And I'm pretty sure it's not the president's lawyers. The press is not doing its job as referee."

"Why?" he asked. "Because the press is the beneficiary of the leaks. If a bank robber was handing you money, you would not have a very powerful reason to report on that bank robber." Other White House officials, who would speak only if their names were not used, bluntly accused Mr. Starr of leaking confidential information. "You are witness to a crime," one official told a reporter. "This is wrong."

Sounding under siege, the official added that the drumbeat of stories based on leaks may "do mortal damage to us." Mr. Starr denied that leaks were coming from his office. "But I share the concern with any assault on the rule of law," he said in response to a question at a news conference in Little Rock, Arkansas. He went on, "I regret that there have been instances, so it would appear, when that rule has not been abided by."

As to an order of confidentiality, he added, "I respect it scrupulously, and so does my staff." Responding to Mr. Starr's comments, Joe Lockhart, a White House spokesman, said, "It's hard to square the comments of the grand jury with the secrecy of the grand jury with news reporters directly quoting the independent counsel's office."

Explaining the impetus for White House efforts to contact reporters, he said, "We'd like to encourage some self-examination about the use of sourcing coming from this investigation."

In public comments on Thursday, White House officials were far more critical of Mr. Starr's investigation than of the media. Michael McCurry, the press secretary, was relatively tame in his comments about the media coverage at

his briefing on Thursday. Asked if it embarrasses the country when the president, standing next to a foreign leader, is asked about Monica Lewinsky, he said: "You are all pursuing this matter, and have pursued it with some zeal, and I think they, frankly, expect that."

Several reporters said they were receiving telephone calls from White House officials urging them to be careful in using leaks.

"Nobody has called up and said, 'He's a criminal,'" said Claire Shipman, a White House correspondent for NBC News, referring to Mr. Starr.

"They're clearly trying to get their message out — and they're doing it in a fairly systematic way. But, so far, not in a threatening way."

Ms. Shipman dismissed the notion that reporters were being unfair.

"The White House would have to give us a little more credit than that," she said. "Everybody understands that every party in this investigation and crisis has an agenda. The White House has a very clear agenda as well."

The truth is that leaks — the unauthorized disclosure of secret or sensitive information — are a fact of life in every branch and every level of government. "The executive branch leaks like a sieve," said George Tenet, the director of central intelligence, in public testimony last week. "And there is no doubt about that. And you look at it carefully and there is guilt everywhere."

'Star Power' Lights Up Clinton-Blair Dinner

By Roxanne Roberts and
Lonnæ O'Neal Parker
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — It's been a tough couple of weeks for President Bill Clinton. But there's nothing like company to shore up sagging spirits. And the star-studded White House dinner for Prime Minister Tony Blair of Britain was just the ticket.

The guest list included Elton John and Stevie Wonder, who teamed up for a performance. "It's a bit like playing a wedding reception," the British singer said. Barbara Streisand and her fiancé, James Brolin, were there, as were John Kennedy Jr. and Carolyn Bessette Kennedy, Tom Hanks, Harrison Ford, Steven Spielberg, Ralph Lauren, Tina Turner, Anna Wintour, Carol Channing and Warren Buffett.

Clearly, it was Mr. Clinton's party. "I'm really pleased the American people have shown great support and good judgment in this matter," Miss Streisand said. "I wish the people who do these illegal leaks and the media who exploit them would show similar respect for the right to privacy and the presumption of innocence. After that, it's no one's business what anyone does behind closed doors."

Not to mention that "he's the most fun president we've ever had — I think we can all agree about that," said Mr. Brolin. "The fact is, the job is getting done and he's enjoying himself."

With 240 guests, it was the largest official Clinton administration dinner held in the White House. Several guests who originally declined the invitations later scrambled to accept, a testament to Mr. Clinton's popularity and the collective star power.

"I can't say we campaigned to come tonight, but we would have," said the president of Sony, Howard Stringer. "It's the ultimate Brit night out." After dinner, he was even more impressed: "If it gets any cooler than this I'll be frozen."

Even a "not too social" fellow like the Senate majority leader, Trent Lott, couldn't refuse. "My wife would kill me if I tried to skip an event like this," he said.

This is the first real baby-boomer White House dinner.



Monica Lewinsky and her stepmother, Barbara Lewinsky, pushing through a crowd of reporters as they leave a Santa Monica, California, restaurant. The struggle over her bid for immunity from prosecution continued.

Ginsburg Accuses Starr of Pressure

Lewinsky's Lawyer Says She Was Secretly Granted Immunity

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — William Ginsburg, the Los Angeles attorney who represents Monica Lewinsky, says that the office of Kenneth Starr, the special prosecutor, is trying to "pressure Ms. Lewinsky into statements that are not true."

Earlier, Mr. Starr said his office was being denied a face-to-face interview with Ms. Lewinsky, a claim that Mr. Ginsburg denied.

Mr. Ginsburg, in his statement Thursday, said Mr. Starr secretly had agreed to grant Ms. Lewinsky full immunity from prosecution in exchange for her testimony but that Mr. Starr was continuing to pressure her into making statements "that are not true."

Mr. Starr said his office could not grant Ms. Lewinsky immunity because his investigators had not been given a face-to-face interview with her. The prosecutor wrote that "there is no substitute for looking a witness in the eye."

In response, Mr. Ginsburg said in his statement: "His continued insistence that he cannot have a face-to-face talk with Ms. Lewinsky has no basis in fact." Mr. Starr's office declined to make an immediate comment.

If granted immunity, Ms. Lewinsky could testify freely about any relationship she had with President Bill Clinton without fear of being prosecuted for contradicting earlier statements or participating in a cover-up.

Mr. Starr said his office could not grant Ms. Lewinsky immunity because his investigators had not been given a face-to-face interview with her. The prosecutor wrote that "there is no substitute for looking a witness in the eye."

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POLITICAL NOTES

Democrats Block Cloning Ban

WASHINGTON — Senate Democrats have blocked action on a Republican-backed bill to ban human cloning, saying it could slow the hunt for cures for cancer and other diseases. The Democrats want to work out a compromise.

The Senate majority leader, Trent Lott of Mississippi, said a vote would be held next week to end the Democratic hold and move the bill toward a final vote. Republicans denied that their legislation, which bans a certain procedure used to produce human cloned embryos, would impede medical research. The bill would ban a procedure known as somatic cell nuclear transfer — the method used by Scottish scientists in cloning a sheep — to create human embryos. (WP)

Gingrich Likes Idea on Surplus

WASHINGTON — Newt Gingrich, the Georgia Republican who is speaker of the House of Representatives, has endorsed President Bill Clinton's call for using future budget surpluses to help shore up Social Security until there is a long-term plan for preserving the system against the tide of baby-boomer retirements. He said he favored treating the \$218 billion of projected budget surpluses over the next five years as a "reserve fund" to guarantee retirement benefits. (WP)

The Reagan Airport Takes Off

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton on Friday signed a bill changing the name of Washington National Airport to Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport as the former Republican president celebrated his 87th birthday. "He is in our thoughts and prayers," Mr. Clinton said. (AP)

Quote/Unquote

Donovan Campbell, Paula Jones's lawyer, responding to President Bill Clinton's request for an early trial: "He realizes he is guilty of the alleged criminal activity and fears the continued scrutiny of his long-standing pattern and practice and habit of abusing his governmental positions of power for his own selfish, self-gratifying purposes at the expense of legions of women." (NYT)

Away From Politics

• The launching of a Delta II rocket carrying telecommunications satellites from the Cape Canaveral Air Station in Florida was scrubbed again because of strong winds. (Reuters)

• The Justice Department is warning women's clinics to be wary of packages that could hide explosives in the wake of the bombing of a clinic in Birmingham, Alabama, this week. (AP)

• A former teacher from Seattle convicted of child rape was sentenced to seven years in prison for violating parole by meeting with the 14-year-old father of her baby. (AP)

• A federal jury awarded \$786,257 to three waitresses who accused the Rustic Inn Crabbhouse in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, of discrimination for shifting them to lower-paying jobs during pregnancy. (AP)

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English Speaking International Catholic Parish, St Leonhard, Alte Mainzer Gasse 8, 60531 Frankfurt, Germany. Tel: 069-2683177. Mass schedule: Saturday 5 p.m. Sunday: 10 a.m. Confessions: 12 hour before Mass.

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EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH - 56, rue des Bons-Raisins, 92500 Neuilly-Malmaison. Worship: 9:45 - 11:00 a.m. Sunday School: 9:45 - 11:00 a.m. For info Tel: 01 47 51 23 6301 47 49 15 29 or: <http://www.gocities.com/Paris/Metro1332>.

HOPE INTERNATIONAL CHURCH Hotel Orion at Paris-la-Défense, 8 bd. de Nautilus, Workshop Sundays, 10:00 a.m. Rev. Bill Rönzheimer, Pastor. Tel: 33 04 08. Metro 1 to la Défense Esplanade.

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"Unitarian-Universalism: a Liberal Faith" will be the subject of the Rev. David Monk's sermon at the February 8 service of the UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF PARIS, 12 noon, Foyer de l'Opera, 7bis, rue du Pasteur-Wagner, 75011 Paris. Metro Bastille. Non-dogmatic religious education for children and teens. Meditation and spiritual growth groups. Social activities. Service a member's home March 1. Information: 01 30 82 75 33.

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THE AMERICAN CATHEDRAL OF THE HOLY TRINITY, Sun. 9 & 11 a.m., 10:45 a.m. Sunday School for children and Nursery care. Third Sunday 5 p.m. Evensong, 23, avenue George V, Paris 75008. Tel: 33-01 53 23 84 00. Metro: George V or Alma Marceau.

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THE CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION, Sun. 11:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist and Sunday School, Nursery Care provided. Seybothstrasse 4, 81545 Munich (Hartmannsdorf). Germany. Tel: 4969 64 51 85.

ROME

ST. PAUL'S WITHIN-THE-WALLS, Sun. 8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist 10:30 a.m. Choral Eucharist 11:15 a.m. Church School for children & Nursery care provided: 1 p.m. Spanish Eucharist, Via Napoli 65, 00184 Roma. Tel: 396 488 3359 or 396 474 3569.

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I.B.C., BERLIN, Rotherbaum Str. 13, (Stöglitz), Sunday, Bible study 10:45, worship Service 12:00 noon. Charles Warford, pastor. Tel: 030-774-4670.

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I.B.C., The Iuventa, Bratislavská 64, Austria 81045, Slovakia. 10:00. Tel: (07) 713537

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I.B.C., Hohenheiser, Hermann-Rose-Str. 17, 20000, Bremen. Pastor: telephone: 0421-78 648.

BUDAPEST

I.B.C., Strada Popea Rusu 22, 3:00 p.m. Contact Pastor Mike Kemper, Tel. 312.3980.

BULGARIA

I.B.C., World Trade Center, 36, Drahov Tzankov Blvd, Varna 11:00, James Dales, Pastor. Tel: 971-2162.

DARMSTADT - GERMANY

I.B.C., Wilhelm-Leuschner Str. 104, Darmstadt-Griesheim, Bible Study Sun. 10:00. Tel: (0611) 941-0255.

FRANKFURT

INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, Ev. Friedländer Gemeinde, Sodenerstr. 11-18, 63559 Bad Homburg, Sunday Worship, Nursery & SS: 11:20 a.m. Mid-week ministries, Pastor M.Lewey, Call/Fax 06173-62728.

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AMERICAN CHURCH IN BERLIN, cor. of Clay Allee & Potsdamer Str., S.S. 9:30 a.m., Worship 11 a.m. Tel: 030-8130221.

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AMERICAN CHURCH IN PARIS, Worship 11:00 a.m. 65, Quai d'Orsay, Paris 7, Bus 63 at door, Metro Alma-Marceau or Invalides.

ZURICH

INTERNATIONAL PROTESTANT CHURCH English speaking, worship service, Sunday School & Nursery, Sundays 11:30 a.m., Schanengasse 25. Tel: (01) 262525.

Governor Of Okinawa Foils U.S. On Heliport

By Mary Jordan
Washington Post Service

TOKYO — The governor of Okinawa on Friday effectively killed plans for a new U.S. military heliport, paralyzing one of the most important defense agreements between Japan and United States in years.

"Okinawa had decided not to accept" the plan to build a floating platform anchored in Japanese waters, Governor Masahide Ota said at a news conference that he called to register his opposition. The platform was to measure 4,500 feet long (1,370-meters).

The governor said the project, which would cost from \$1 billion to \$2 billion, would only add to the "heavy burden" that the U.S. military places on the Japanese people. Mr. Ota also said he wanted all 47,000 U.S. troops to go home.

Seventy-five percent of American military bases are in Okinawa, a chain of islands south of Tokyo that accounts for 1 percent of Japan's land.

Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto remains a strong supporter of the U.S. military, as does his governing Liberal Democratic Party. But Mr. Ota has considerable public appeal and power over projects within his jurisdiction.

Mr. Hashimoto, already weighed down with nation's poor economy and government corruption scandals, found Friday that Mr. Ota had unraveled perhaps the most important achievement since he has been in office.

In 1996, Mr. Hashimoto and the U.S. ambassador at the time, Walter Mondale, announced that the United States would close a huge air base, consolidate other bases and reduce by 20 percent the land it occupies in Okinawa.

This was to be the biggest change in the U.S. military status in Japan in 25 years. But U.S. officials agreed to it with the understanding that the 1,200-acre (490-hectare) Futenma Air Station would shut down when another site was found.

Privately, U.S. defense officials say Tokyo's inability to provide a new site for landing aircraft throws into question whether the national government has the power to follow through on important military agreements. For example, if there is a war with North Korea, will Tokyo refuel and repair U.S. fighter jets, as Tokyo recently agreed, or will it be captive to local pacifist opposition?

While Tokyo feuds with Mr. Ota, the big loser may be the Pentagon, because public pressure is likely to mount for a withdrawal from Futenma without an alternative site, which U.S. officials have said is vital to maintain its military readiness in the Asia-Pacific region.

The U.S. military accident in Italy this week, where an American pilot sliced through a cable wire and killed 20 skiers, has added to the hostility among Okinawa activists who want the United States to leave. "The accident in Italy again shocks us and reminds us this can happen anytime U.S. forces are near," said Zenko Nakamura, an Okinawan activist. "That is why we want a military-base-free Okinawa."

The U.S. Embassy issued a statement Friday saying that it was "aware" of Mr. Ota's statement and "confident that the government of Japan remains fully committed" to the plan to consolidate the U.S. presence in Okinawa.

Given how long it takes to approve, plan and build an air base — the floating heliport was a complicated project never before attempted — it now seems assured that Futenma will not close by 2003.

Mr. Hashimoto, clearly disappointed Friday, said the governor was effectively freezing plans for the United States to abandon Futenma. "The problem will remain just as it is now," he said.

Residents around Futenma, already caught up in grand plans to build a special economic development zone on the site of the base, reacted angrily Friday. One elected official from Ginowan City, Osamu Oshitomi, said Mr. Ota's decision amounted to "treason."

Tokyo officials have done a lot to push the floating air strip, canvassing door-to-door in Nago, the town that would be nearest the anchored heliport, and promising a windfall of lucrative development projects and appealing tax cuts. But in December voters rejected the heliport by a vote of 16,639 to 14,267.

A mayoral election Sunday in Nago is shaping up as the second referendum on the military base. All polls predict the anti-heliport candidate will win, and Mr. Ota's remarks Friday bolstered the chances for this outcome.

JAKARTA: U.S. Admiral Fears Instability

Continued from Page 1

regime has so far contained these forces.

Colonel Thomas Boyd, chief of public affairs at the headquarters of the U.S. Pacific Command in Honolulu, questioned Friday about news agency reports of Admiral Frueh's remarks, said they were fairly accurate.

"Any time a country looks as though it could be less than cooperative with the rights of transit passage through international straits would be of concern to us," Colonel Boyd said. "We do not think we are looking at that in Indonesia, but we are worried about how things are going there."

Two of the three U.S. aircraft carriers now in the Gulf off Iraq, accompanied by escorting ships and submarines, reached there from the Pacific through the Malacca Strait.

"The United States," said Charles Morrison, a regional security specialist at the East-West Center in Honolulu, "has a major interest in doing



Rahul Gandhi, pointing at a Calcutta crowd, with his mother, Sonia.

Another Gandhi Enthralls India

By John F. Burns
New York Times Service

CALCUTTA — Day by day for most of the past month, Sonia Gandhi has drawn vast crowds across India to witness a mesmerizing odyssey — a bid by this 51-year-old native of Italy to follow in the footsteps of her assassinated husband and mother-in-law and take control of India's turbulent politics.

The scene that played out Thursday before a setting sun on the vast, grassy common in the center of Calcutta was like dozens of others since Mrs. Gandhi finally took the plunge into politics that Congress (I) Party stalwarts had urged, and she had avoided, since the suicide bombing that killed her husband, Rajiv, in 1991.

Like rolling thunder, the crowd that stretched into the distance raised repeated cries of "Sonia Gandhi zindebad!" ("Long live Sonia Gandhi"), as Mrs. Gandhi, in a maroon sari and with her son, Rahul, 25, at her side, ended her 10-minute speech.

As elsewhere on her campaign, she spoke almost entirely in Hindi, reading from a romanized text with a fluency that seemed to thrill many who heard it, despite her Italian accent and an occasional stumble over tortuous words.

At rallies everywhere, from Tamil Nadu state in the deep south to the semi-desert region of Rajasthan in the west to the teeming heart of West Bengal on Thursday, Mrs. Gandhi has shown a stunning ability to pull the sort of crowds — as many as 250,000 people — that regularly turned out for Rajiv Gandhi and Indira Gandhi, his mother.

Mr. Gandhi was assassinated while he was campaigning for a second term as

prime minister. His mother was prime minister when she was assassinated by her own guards in 1984.

But it is not only Sonia Gandhi's crowd-pulling ability and her success in overcoming the fact that she has been an Indian citizen only since 1984 that have stunned many Indians.

Despite a previous reputation as an introvert with a deep distaste for the hurly-burly of Indian politics and a privately expressed fear of the specter of another assassination, Mrs. Gandhi has dominated the current election campaign with a barnstorming style that has pumped new hope into the deflated balloon of the Congress (I) Party.

General elections are scheduled between Feb. 16 and March 7.

Mrs. Gandhi's first rally, on Jan. 11 at Sriperumbudur in Tamil Nadu, where her husband was killed by a Sri Lankan terrorist, struck many who attended as more of a memorial service for Mr. Gandhi than a bare-knuckled political event.

But Mrs. Gandhi has since taken the gloves off, tackling issues that have been almost taboo in the Congress Party for years and striking out forcefully against the Hindu nationalist group that is the party's main rival in the election, the Bharatiya Janata Party.

At the Calcutta rally, Mrs. Gandhi assailed Hindu nationalists and at other sectarian groups, many of which are contesting the election under the banner of the United Front, a loose alliance that formed the minority government that collapsed in November.

Worried that her campaign could deny them the best chance they have ever had of gaining power, the Hindu nationalists have mocked Mrs. Gandhi, asking how

"a foreigner" and a "housewife" with an uncertain grasp of conversational Hindi can aspire to be prime minister.

Mrs. Gandhi has not said that she would want to be prime minister if Congress wins the election, and has chosen not to run for a seat in Parliament. But she has been introduced at almost every rally, as she was Thursday in Calcutta, as "the best prime minister" for the country, and most Congress veterans think that she would head the government if there was a Congress sweep, with a safe parliamentary seat being opened up in a by-election.

For the moment, she has concentrated on refuting the charge that her Italian origin disqualifies her. References to the family she married into have been woven into every speech, starting with Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi's father, who was India's first prime minister. But more than this, she has emphasized her love for India, and the losses she has endured there.

"My heart is buried in the soil of this land, and I am at one with you," she told the Calcutta crowd.

Despite the crowds at her rallies — 150,000 at Thursday's gathering in Calcutta — most Indian political commentators think that Mrs. Gandhi's effort may have come too late to have any realistic hope of returning Congress to power in New Delhi.

Unbeatable for most of the first 40 years after independence in 1947, Congress has been an increasingly sorry shell in the years since Rajiv Gandhi died. It has been ridden with corruption and cronyism, and seemingly directionless under the leadership of aged acolytes of the Gandhi family.

UN Monitor Rejects Iraqi Offers; British Detail Weapons Stocks

By Christopher S. Wren
New York Times Service

UNITED NATIONS, New York — The chief UN weapons investigator, Richard Butler, has told the Security Council that recent proposals floated by Iraq to defuse the crisis over weapons inspections were not good enough, according to diplomats attending the closed session.

Mr. Butler stressed Thursday that he had not seen the official Iraqi proposals, but that reports pieced together from press accounts and visits by envoys suggested that Iraq's president, Saddam Hussein, had no intention of allowing UN inspectors to fulfill their mandate given by the Security Council.

British diplomats, meanwhile, set out the case for

the existence of prohibited Iraqi weapons stocks by distributing a report by their own government that tracks Iraq's acquisition of chemical and biological weapons in even more frightening detail than Mr. Butler and his inspectors have presented publicly.

The report, which draws primarily on the special commission's findings, was given by the British foreign secretary, Robin Cook, to Parliament on Wednesday before he traveled to Saudi Arabia.

An official with the special commission described the report as a "pretty good" summary of what is known about Iraq's development of weapons of mass destruction, but singled out a minor inaccuracy.

According to the report, the special commission determined that Iraq produced 4,940 gallons

(18,670 liters) of botulinum toxin, 2,184 gallons of anthrax and a total of 520 gallons of aflatoxin, which causes liver cancer, and clostridium, which causes gas gangrene. The officials said that these were only what Iraq admitted to having produced, and that the actual quantity could be more.

Since the Gulf War, the British report said, UN weapons inspectors have destroyed 38,000 chemical weapons components, 124,800 gallons of live chemical weapons agents, 48 operational missiles, six missile launchers and 30 special missile warheads for chemical and biological weapons.

The inspectors also found that the Al Hakam factory, which Iraq asserted was devoted to making animal feed, was capable of producing 13,000 gallons of anthrax and botulinum toxin. The site

was razed. Iraq has given three versions of its status regarding chemical weapons and four versions on biological weapons, the British report said, "all shown to be seriously inaccurate."

The British report said that the special commission was concerned that Iraq may still have concealed Scud-type missiles armed with chemical and biological warheads, and that critical missile components, warheads and propellant were not accounted for. Nor are 17 tons of growth media for biological warfare agents, which is enough to make more than three times the amount of anthrax that Iraq admitted to having. In Iraq's chemical weapons program, the report said, 4,000 tons of precursors for chemical weapons and more than 31,000 chemical warfare munitions are unaccounted for.

U.S. to Bolster Airpower in Gulf

By Bradley Graham
Washington Post Service

MUNICH — The United States plans to send additional warplanes to the Gulf "within the next several days" in further preparation for air strikes against Iraq, Defense Secretary William Cohen said Friday.

While Pentagon officials had expressed confidence in the more than 400 U.S. aircraft already in the region to handle the attack mission, General Anthony Zinni, the top U.S. commander there, has requested extra F-117 Stealth fighter jets and other aircraft to deal with possible attempts by Iraq to retaliate.

U.S. officials worry that Iraq may respond to any air strike by lashing out with ground forces or missiles against Kuwait, Saudi Arabia or Israel, and so want to be in a position to intensify their own attack operations.

Similar concerns, officials said, were behind the decision Thursday to dispatch a four-ship contingent of about 2,200 Marines to the gulf.

Mr. Cohen arrived in Germany to attend a security conference that he will follow with a swing through six Gulf states beginning Sunday. He told reporters traveling with him that his intention was to reassure Gulf leaders that the planned strikes represented "a serious effort" to

bring President Saddam Hussein of Iraq into compliance with United Nations resolutions.

"They have been concerned in the past that when Saddam has taken certain provocative actions, we responded in a rather mild fashion," he said. "This is not mild or meager, this is substantial. So I will lay out essentially what the parameters of a force-projection effort would be."

Except for Kuwait and Bahrain, none of the Gulf states has given assurances that it would cooperate in military operations against Iraq. Saudi Arabia is considering a request to permit U.S. strike aircraft to fly through its airspace en route to Iraq, and U.S. support aircraft, such as refueling planes, to fly from Saudi bases.

"We are satisfied we will be able to carry out the mission," Mr. Cohen asserted, adding, "I think we will have the support of all the states in the region."

Mr. Cohen reserved his sharpest expressions of disappointment for UN Security Council members that have withheld support for military action. "They have passed resolutions and yet seem unwilling to condemn Saddam's actions or say that he is in any significant or material breach of his obligations," he said. "I think the Security Council's and United Nations' credibility is on the line."

IRAQ: U.S. and Britain Say They Are 'Prepared to Act'

Continued from Page 1

private conversations about Iraq, noted that the pressure of potential military action had "concentrated minds" in Baghdad and produced some movement toward a diplomatic solution. But the two men also agreed they must stick to a firm standard of "unfettered and unconditional access" by UN weapons inspectors to all suspect sites in Iraq, and not be fooled by a supposed diplomatic solution at the last moment that again proves illusory.

"Having cocked and recoiled the trigger, we're getting some movement," a senior British official said. "That's not discouraging, and the fact that it may take more time is not a problem. O.K., because no one is itching to pull the trigger."

But the two leaders spent "most of their conversation" on ways to proceed if the Russians or French suddenly announce a diplomatic solution — "how we nail it down, and bolt it down hard."

A senior U.S. official said: "We understand that given Saddam's history, more is required

from him than just a promissory note. We need to see early, clear evidence of implementation."

The officials said that in the event of a diplomatic solution, Richard Butler, chairman of the UN Special Commission of weapons inspectors, would be pressed to ask for immediate and continuing access to the most sensitive Iraqi sites, while all British and U.S. military forces remain on station. That period of testing implementation could last several months, the officials said.

There is an understanding that for the rest of the world, in particular the moderate Arab countries, it is vital that Washington and London let diplomacy run its course for another 10 days to two weeks.

But there is a parallel wariness about being sucked into a diplomatic solution that is fake or fragile and that repeats the experience of November, when Moscow got a quickly broken promise from Mr. Saddam to allow unrestricted UN inspections.

In the news conference, Mr. Clinton repeated that the current goal was a limited one: not to

overthrow Mr. Saddam or refight the Gulf War, but to resolve "that very sharp question" about the unrestricted access of weapons inspectors in Iraq.

"I don't believe we need to refight the Gulf War," he said. "It's history. It happened, that's the way it is. I don't believe we need to get into a direct war with Iraq over the leadership of the country. Do I think the country would be better served if it had a different leader? Of course, I do. That's not the issue."

He added: "I think the precise question should be, that I should have to ask and answer is, 'Could any military action, if all else fails, substantially reduce or delay Saddam Hussein's capacities to develop weapons of mass destruction and to deliver them on his neighbors?'"

He responded: "The answer to that, I am convinced, is 'yes.' I am convinced there is a 'yes' answer there."

Mr. Blair, for his part, said that it was "absolutely essential" that Mr. Saddam be "brought back into line" and that the UN inspectors be allowed to work.

KOREA: Accord on Layoffs

Continued from Page 1

eration of Korean industries, an organization of chaebol chairmen, said it showed "our strong will to overcome the current crisis" and promised "every effort to re-enforce management transparency," one of the demands of the International Monetary Fund in its \$60 billion credit package last year.

Scores of Korean companies are expected to go bankrupt in the coming months while others struggle to survive in the face of sharply falling domestic sales, mounting debts and nowhere to go for the easy credit on which they relied before the country's debt crisis.

Ahn Pong Sul, international director of the Federation of Korean Trade Unions, predicted the nation's unemployment figure of 660,000 would at least double by the end of the year.

Throughout the talks, the unions demanded provisions under which company owners and executives would suffer along with the rank-and-file. That effort was reflected in the declaration of the tripartite committee that all sides had agreed on — "the social contract to equally and sincerely share the pain in the course of economic restructuring."

"Management will be allowed to dismiss workers only if it is unavoidable," said the layoff provision.

Companies have to give 60 days' notice of layoffs both to the Ministry of Labor and to the workers and their union and must rehire them as soon as possible.

Mergers and acquisitions count as a "management crisis" under which layoffs might be necessary.

The legislation would cushion the blow of dismissal for workers by providing unemployment insurance, welfare benefits and job retraining.

Mandela Sets Tough Targets In Economics For Country

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

CAPE TOWN — President Nelson Mandela set tough economic and social targets Friday for South Africa ahead of elections next year that will close the first phase of transition from apartheid to democracy.

In his annual speech at the opening session of Parliament, Mr. Mandela said the government would remain committed to the tough targets of Finance Minister Trevor Manuel's growth and reconstruction program and urged the public to adopt a new morality against crime and self-enrichment.

"This is our call to all South Africans — to firm up the moral fiber of the nation," he said.

Mr. Mandela also announced plans to trim public-sector jobs, which, in spite of early promises to cut the state payroll, have grown by about 10 percent under democracy to 1.2 million employees in national and provincial governments.

"The government is not an employment agency," he said, but added, "Negotiations will need to take into account the principle that shedding jobs in the public service does not necessarily have to translate into worsening the problem of unemployment."

Mr. Manuel said later that an announcement of targets for job cuts would undermine negotiations with the public-sector unions that are to start within two weeks.

"What is clear is the fact that the president this morning said there is no room for equivocation," he said. "We've got our battle orders to get this thing in line."

Bond and foreign-exchange markets largely ignored Mr. Mandela's remarks, with analysts saying they were "nothing new," while opposition critics called the speech rhetoric.

Tony Leon, leader of the business-oriented Democratic Party, said the speech was unsatisfactory and unconvincing.

"The president announced no new measures to speed up privatization, reduce taxation or get rid of restrictive labor legislation," he said. "These are all essential ingredients of our future economic growth."

Mr. Mandela, who will be 80 in July, plans to retire when black and white South Africans vote next year for only the second time together.

Officials said his deputy and heir apparent, Thabo Mbeki, was deeply involved in writing the speech, which showed no relaxation of the commitment to fiscal discipline that has been a trademark of Mr. Mandela's administration.

Mr. Mandela restated the government's commitment to cutting the budget deficit in the next two years to 3 percent of gross domestic product from 5 percent of gross domestic product last year.

"We cannot pretend that the deficit targets we have set ourselves do not test our capacity and will," he said. "But we cannot divert from the course we have chosen. There is no other route to sustainable development."

He said South Africa would continue to privatize some state assets and to eliminate remaining foreign-exchange controls, which now affect residents but not foreign investors.

But he added that privatization would never become an ideology.

Those who benefited from apartheid — meaning the white minority — should help the country progress instead of stubbornly resisting change, Mr. Mandela said.

"This is a challenge to all of us, especially those whose past privileges have afforded them skills that are high in demand in public service, to volunteer skills to help improve the lot of the nation," he said. (Reuters, AFP, AP)



President Mandela during the opening session of Parliament on Friday.

South Africa Tries to Give Tough Journalist the Boot

By Donald G. McNeil Jr.
New York Times Service

JOHANNESBURG — In what critics say looks like an attempt to silence an irritating journalist, South Africa is deporting a prominent reporter who has written many articles that angered government officials.

The reporter, Newton Kanheima, a Zimbabwean, learned from news reports that he has lost his permanent resident status. The government says he falsely claimed on an immigration document to have lived here since 1991 but only moved permanently in 1992.

Mr. Kanheima is in the United States on a fellowship. But his wife, Jean, has been visited several times by immigration officials demanding that she leave by Wednesday. The government contends this is a routine deportation; Mr. Kanheima's backers say it is an effort to drive him out and deny him a court challenge by ejecting his wife while he is overseas.

Raymond Louw, deputy chairman of the Freedom of Expression Institute here, said: "It looks like they're using a technicality to get rid of a good professional journalist. Over the last few months, one gets the impression that the higher echelons of the ANC are trying to — I hesitate to use the word 'intimidate' — but to 'bring the press to order.' This is a government without a lot of experience of a watchdog press in a democratic environment."

Mr. Kanheima, an investigative and political reporter for the Sunday Independent and The Star, the country's largest newspaper, has written many articles that embarrassed the administration. Last year, he uncovered a \$1.5 billion deal to sell artillery to Saudi Arabia that Denel, a government-owned armsmaker, was trying to keep secret. He later revealed that South Africa gave sanctuary to several generals who fled what was then Zaire with millions of dollars after the fall of the longtime dictator, Mobutu Sese Seko.

In November, on the eve of the ANC convention at which President Nelson Mandela handed over control of the party to his successor, Deputy President

Thabo Mbeki, Mr. Kanheima interviewed Mr. Mandela's former wife for a story in which she scathingly attacked the party leadership.

He recently wrote an article saying that the party, which is deeply indebted, was seeking money from Malaysian businessmen, but that some of the donations ended up in private accounts.

Lagos Names a Street After Farrakhan

The Associated Press

LAGOS — City officials have renamed the street in front of the U.S. Embassy here after the Nation of Islam leader, Louis Farrakhan, two weeks after a New York City corner was named for the slain wife of a Nigerian dissident.

The renaming of Eleke Crescent was done "in honor of the indefatigable visionary leader," said Alhaji Yahaya Dosunmu, a local official.

At the ceremony Thursday, no mention was made of the renaming in New York City, but the move was widely seen as retaliatory.

Over the objections of the Nigerian government, a street corner opposite the Nigerian UN Mission in New York was named Kudirat Abiola Corner.

Nigeria contended that the name was selected to embarrass the West African country.

Kudirat Abiola was the wife of Moshood Abiola, who is widely thought

Paris Will Demote Its Ties With African 'Backyard'

Ministry on Ex-Colonies Faces End of Autonomy

By Charles Trueheart
Washington Post Service

PARIS — The government of Prime Minister Lionel Jospin has outlined a potentially far-reaching reform of France's relationship with its African "backyard," a sphere of influence dating from the colonial era that once guaranteed Paris the support of a major bloc of African votes at the United Nations.

Since the French colonial empire in Africa gave way to independence nearly 40 years ago, Paris has maintained close ties to most of its former colonies through a de facto ministry for African affairs known as the Ministry for Cooperation, a powerful agency virtually independent of the rest of France's diplomatic apparatus.

Over the years, French leaders, beginning with President Charles de Gaulle in the 1960s, have yearned to drive a stake through the heart of the Cooperation Ministry. But they have always surrendered to pressures from the bureaucracy and its constituency — African leaders who saw the ministry as their special conduit to political influence and foreign aid.

The new reform plan reflects both France's continuing retrenchment in Africa as the United States becomes more active there and its desire to forge economic relationships in English-speaking African countries, notably South Africa. The plan represents a new phase in France's efforts to break out of almost four decades of quasi-colonialism and another step in the rejiggering of global relationships in the post-Cold War era.

Since it was installed eight months ago, Mr. Jospin's Socialist government has signaled its desire to break with past policy toward Africa.

France's military presence on the continent is being cut by one-fourth, and this month it will participate with the United States and Britain in training French-speaking African soldiers for peacekeeping operations on the continent — a tacit relinquishment of France's exclus-

ive military domain that would have been unthinkable even five years ago.

Thus far, Mr. Jospin's government has worked effectively on the African dossier with President Jacques Chirac, whose Gaullist party was defeated in legislative elections last year. Although he swore three years ago on a visit to Benin that the cherished Cooperation Ministry would exist as long as he was president, Mr. Chirac gave his blessing to the Jospin plan.

The machinery of the reform is bureaucratic: The Cooperation Ministry will be absorbed into the Foreign Ministry, where, at least in theory, Africa will be a world region like any other. Charles Josselin, the cooperation minister, said Paris would cease to have a separate foreign policy for French-speaking African countries.

When the reforms are refined and put in place this year, Mr. Josselin will become a junior minister under Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine. But he will keep a place at the cabinet table to reassure African leaders who fear they will lose their clout and privileged access.

Such are the sensitivities about this move that every official effort has been made to stress that France is not abandoning its special friends. Because of its high levels of poverty, French-speaking Africa will continue to constitute a "priority zone of solidarity" for French developmental assistance, officials said Thursday.

"No one will lose," Mr. Vedrine said. At stake for developing countries is French foreign aid that amounts to almost \$8 billion a year — on a per capita basis, more than three times the U.S. foreign aid budget. About two-thirds of it goes to African countries.

The change also will enable France to act in concert with other donor nations and organizations, such as the United Nations and the World Bank. French aid has been heavily redirected in recent years through those organizations, limiting direct largesse to favored countries.

BRIEFLY

North Korean Aide Defects to the South

SEOUL — A North Korean diplomat defected Friday to South Korea, saying he had little hope for the survival of his country's Communist regime.

Kim Dong Su, 38, a third secretary at Pyongyang's mission to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome, smiled as he stepped off a plane at Gimpo Airport with his wife and 8-year-old son.

"I increasingly felt uncertain of the future of North Korea, where food shortages are getting worse and children are starving to death," Mr. Kim said before Seoul government officials escorted him away for questioning. (AP)

A Suicide Bomber Kills 9 in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO — At least nine people were killed when a female suicide bomber detonated explosives strapped to her body at a military checkpoint Friday in Colombo, the Sri Lankan capital, the police and witnesses said.

The explosion occurred only hours after Prince Charles of Britain left the island after a visit to mark Sri Lanka's 50th independence anniversary. Government forces had been on high alert for attacks by Tamil Tiger rebels.

No group had claimed responsibility for the blast. (Reuters)

Colombia Ambush

BOGOTA — Colombian rebels set off dynamite blasts and then opened fire as a police patrol passed on a country road Friday, killing eight officers and wounding two others, the authorities said.

The police said the National Liberation Army, the nation's second-largest guerrilla group, was responsible for the ambush near Sardinata, 420 kilometers (260 miles) north-east of the capital, Bogota.

There were no reports of rebel casualties. (AP)

For the Record

Indonesia strongly criticized the United States on Friday for its 1997 human rights report, saying it was biased and unbalanced. The State Department report last week said the government repressed political opposition. (Reuters)



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BOOKS

PILLAR OF FIRE: America in the King Years, 1963-65

By Taylor Branch. 746 pages.
\$30.

Reviewed by Jeff Shesol

IN "Pillar of Fire," the second volume of Taylor Branch's civil rights trilogy, Martin Luther King Jr. is nothing quite so simple as a man or myth. To Branch, King is a metaphor — "the best and most important metaphor for American history in the watershed postwar years." King is the "pillar of fire" of the book's title, but, stressing the civil rights movement with his moral strength and energizing it with his rhetorical fervor.

Branch's epic first volume, the Pulitzer Prize-winning "Parting the Waters," spanned a full decade; "Pillar of Fire" covers less than three years. Still, these were, as Branch argues, "the movement's peak years." After the brutality of Birmingham in May 1963, Branch explains, "leaders of every rank groped for responses to a coming flood. Race, so long conceived as a distant element of nature, slow-moving as a bank of rain clouds, suddenly bubbled up everywhere to sweep away the prevailing notion that passion was the enemy rather than the friend of racial goodwill. Where reason had swayed forward conviction that segregation was fragile and that human nature

contained untapped reserves for improvement."

Branch describes the torrent that followed — "Freedom Summer," the filibuster and passage of the civil rights bill, the beatings in St. Augustine and riots in New York City, the murders of Medgar Evers and Malcolm X — in gripping detail, his prose moving swiftly and effortlessly from the White House to a Selma, Alabama, jail to a Bogue Chitto Swamp in Mississippi, where the smoldering car of three murdered civil rights workers was found in June 1964. This is, for the most part, heavily trafficked territory, so Branch may be forgiven if "Pillar of Fire" is neither as seminal nor as singular an achievement as "Parting the Waters." But here, as before, Branch spins an intricate, seamless web of politics and personalities, ambition and imagination, triumph and tragedy.

The subtitle of Branch's trilogy is "America in the King Years." Yet it is worth noting that "Pillar of Fire" begins not with a nonviolent victory but with a bloody battle between Black Muslims and Los Angeles police in 1962. This riot, virtually forgotten by historians, heralded the arrival of Malcolm X in the national arena, and from the first pages of Branch's book one senses that the political ground has shifted beneath King. Malcolm X, the brash Muslim, was stealing the spotlight from nonviolent veterans like

Ralph Abernathy and Roy Wilkins, who were quickly fading from view. The movement's triumphs notwithstanding, forgiveness was becoming a harder sell than "enemy-ism."

In September 1963, after a dynamite blast killed four young girls in a Birmingham church, even some of King's advisers pressed him to lash out, to attack the oppressors. Yet King "renounced" one, Branch writes. "Instead, he exhorted listeners to bridge rather than exploit gulfs of separation. . . . He wobbled on a sensitive spot, desperate to move but stuck in melancholy, confessing that his leadership was 'standing still, doing nothing, going nowhere.'"

Despite his own pessimism, King persevered: His moral vision remained clear and focused, his rhetoric strong and stirring. As the months passed, however, he was increasingly beset by financial pressures, beleaguered by jealous and feuding colleagues, stalked and intimidated by J. Edgar Hoover's FBI, and haunted by the constant threat of violence.

Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr. animate but do not dominate Branch's story. The author is as egalitarian as his subjects: Branch renders unsung activists like Vernon Dahmer, a Mississippi farmer, as completely as he does power players like Lyndon Johnson, Adam Clayton Powell, Allard Lowenstein, and a host of rabbis and clergymen

make brief but memorable appearances in "Pillar of Fire."

The breadth of Branch's cast of characters is one of his book's greatest virtues. However, he must backtrack considerably to introduce figures like Malcolm X, peripheral in the first volume (in which Malcolm garners three brief references) but critical in the second. Thus, in a rather shapeless introductory section that amounts to 169 pages of scene-setting, Branch revisits events like Birmingham and the March on Washington, approaching them from different angles. Since it is not always clear where Branch is headed, this opening section, like those that follow, would benefit from clearer signposts.

STILL, "Pillar of Fire" provides a clear-eyed, panoramic view of the civil rights community at a triumphal moment — the end of legal segregation — before violence and division tore the movement apart.

Jeff Shesol, author of "Mutual Contempt: Lyndon Johnson, Robert Kennedy and the Feud that Defined a Decade," wrote this for The Washington Post.

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KOREA: Accord on Layoffs

Continued from Page 1

...and a "housewife" who...
...uncertain grasp of conversational...
...hand can aspire to be prime minister...
...Mrs. Gandhi has not said that she...
...would want to be prime minister of India...
...these were the election, and has chosen...
...to run for a seat in Parliament for...
...she has been introduced to almost every...
...daily, as the wife of the prime minister...
...the best prime minister in the world...
...and most Congress veterans think that...
...that she would head the government...
...there was a Congress sweep, with a...
...parliamentary seat being opened up...
...by-election.

EDITORIALS/OPINION

Herald Tribune

PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

Loose Lips

With the United States gearing up for war against Iraq, it is not surprising that rhetoric about the crisis is escalating. But loose talk among Republican leaders about removing Saddam Hussein and Boris Yeltsin's references to a new world war are not helpful. This confrontation is dangerous enough without political grandstanding.

There is a wonderful simplicity to the idea of sacking Saddam.

Remove him, the theory goes, and a democratic Iraq will be born, renouncing the use of weapons of mass destruction and committing itself to live in peace with its neighbors. The notion offers a clean, swift end to a stalemate with Iraq that could well outlast a series of American air strikes aimed at punishing Baghdad but not eliminating Saddam.

The reality is a good deal more sobering. The only sure way to remove Saddam is to invade Iraq, occupy Baghdad and either capture the Iraqi leader or force him into exile. If Trent Lott and Newt Gingrich want to be rid of Saddam, they must be prepared to send an army of at least several hundred thousand American combat troops to Iraq and accept the risk that many of them will be killed in an invasion.

If the idea is to bomb Iraq and rally Saddam's opponents to overthrow him, there is little chance of success. The failure of recent American clandestine operations in Iraq suggests that Saddam's hold on power is too strong and that his opponents are too divided to create optimal conditions for a successful coup, even if Amer-

icans wanted to endorse that kind of intervention. Assassination is, for sound moral and political reasons, prohibited by a series of presidential executive orders and would only invite hostile foreign governments to use similar tactics against American leaders.

If Saddam were removed, there is a chance that he would be replaced by someone equally repugnant or, more likely, that Iraq would splinter and be riven by civil war. Given Iraq's extensive oil reserves and its proximity to countries that might be tempted to exploit such instability, including Iran, that is not necessarily a welcome outcome.

There is understandable impatience with the prospect that American air strikes would wound but not disable the Iraqi regime, and might not secure full access for United Nations inspectors hunting for chemical and biological weapons. That is a problem that President Bill Clinton and his military advisers must try to solve as they plan military action.

Moving directly to an invasion, which would take months to organize, is not the answer.

For now, the emphasis in Washington and Moscow should be on gaining Iraqi cooperation by diplomatic means, backed by the threat of force.

If diplomacy fails to secure unrestricted access by UN inspectors, American and British air strikes will be justified. By irresponsibly warning of a wider war, Mr. Yeltsin only makes the work of his diplomats harder.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Cruel Cuba Embargo

Bending to winds strengthened by the Pope's visit, leading American supporters of a particular line on Cuba have changed course. From denying food and medicine to the Cuban people in order to drive them to revolt against their Communist rulers, Senator Jesse Helms, Republican of North Carolina, and the Cuban American National Foundation now propose that private American citizens and even the American government donate these items to needy Cubans.

The politicians and exile groups that endorse this change deserve credit. Implicitly, they are admitting that an embargo bearing directly on the health and welfare of innocent Cubans is a cruel practice that subverts American ideals and retards change.

The new proposal contains conditions that sponsors realized might provoke Fidel Castro to turn it down, as he now has. Sponsors take such a reputation as a political victory in that it ostensibly puts the onus on the Castro regime. The conditions, leaving intact the American embargo, are meant to ensure that in the sponsorship, distribution and enjoyment of these donations, the benefits accrue entirely to the Cuban people, not to the Castro regime.

This is a good purpose, but it should not be allowed to get in the way of meeting the people's needs. If this is to be done, food and medicine shipments will have to be made through normal

commercial channels as well as through special humanitarian ones. That will require lifting some of the embargo's restrictions — a step opposed by the Miami groups and their supporters. But it is a necessary and worthy step. The deliberate infliction of pain on people Americans supposedly wish to help is an unsustainable policy.

President Bill Clinton demands Cuban "reciprocity" for any American policy softening. But Fidel Castro has gone ahead with a major concession in allowing Pope John Paul II to come to Cuba and to start renewing the spirit and organization of his church.

The ball is in the American court. What better response than to start reviewing the embargo? It was imposed nearly four decades ago, when Cuba was a pawn of an American global adversary. Now the embargo is an anomaly that isolates the United States and lets Fidel Castro play the aggrieved nationalist. Its American supporters cling to the embargo as the essential lever to bring change. But John Paul would jettison the whole thing; he regards the embargo as a "monstrous crime."

Who do you think qualifies as a better guide to the challenging of Communist power structures — Francisco Hernandez of the Cuban Foundation, Jesse Helms, Bill Clinton or John Paul II?

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

Pooh and Friends

Visitors to the Donnell Library on New York's West 53d Street who happen upon the original Winnie-the-Pooh & Co. in their climate-controlled case might remember Maurice Sendak's comment about great children's books — that few first editions exist because they were first eaten. Pooh, Eeyore, Kanga, Tigger and Piglet show every sign of a toy life well lived — worn fur, faded colors, missing eyes and flattened stuffing.

A member of Britain's Parliament, Gwyneth Dunwoody, complained this past week that the toys — the inspiration for the classic series of children's books — "look very unhappy indeed" and ought to be returned to their native country. The response from New York was predictable. Mayor Rudolph Giuliani made some pointed comments about not being a colony anymore. Representative Nita Lowey introduced a resolution condemning an attempt "to swipe the lovable stuffed animals from their home" — and pointing out that in addition to being climate-controlled, Pooh's glass case is bulletproof.

The toys were originally the prop-

erty of Christopher Milne, a child who lived in Surrey, England, in the 1920s. His father wrote the Pooh stories about their adventures. After Christopher was grown, Mr. Milne gave the toys to his American publisher. In 1987, they were donated to the New York Public Library with the then-elderly Christopher Milne's blessing. On Thursday, even Prime Minister Tony Blair went over to the enemy and endorsed the status quo.

But despite all the American insistence that the stuffed animals are happy — nay, ecstatic — in their present home, Ms. Dunwoody was probably right in detecting signs of melancholy. Old toys always look a little pathetic. They have been left behind, and their scars are the only reminder of the long-gone boy or girl whose imagination gave them life. Pooh and Eeyore and the rest are too fragile to play with now.

Their value is as a reminder of an era when publishers did not judge children's books in terms of their spin-off potential. The library case displays proof that Pooh was a toy before he was a marketing concept.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

America's Grip on Iraq Crisis: Getting Slipperier

By William Pfaff

DAVOS, Switzerland — War overshadowed economics as the 1998 World Economic Forum closed this past week in this Swiss resort. American officials made a big effort to persuade international business and government leaders that President Bill Clinton has his mind on affairs of state and is determined to settle the problem of Saddam Hussein.

The impression these officials left was that the cranked-up machinery of Iraq intimidation has now gathered such political momentum that it will not easily be stopped. That was perhaps a calculated message, but it was significant.

Mr. Clinton is vulnerable to the Republican opposition on military and foreign policy issues. The Iraqi president has shown great talent for provoking and exploiting Western opinion, dividing the Gulf War coalition by playing Washington like a maddened swordfish on the line.

Saddam Hussein wants an end to UN inspections and sanctions. He is nonetheless an isolated leader who knows little about the world outside his own region. He could miscalculate his policy this time and provoke the American juggernaut to roll over him.

But even that could discomfit the United States. Even if Bill Clinton had Iraq and the Iraqis at his mercy, what

would he do with them? That question caused George Bush to stop the Gulf War when he did.

Washington is driven by the momentum and extravagance of what both the administration and Congress have previously said about the Iraqi president, and what they have threatened to do to him if further provoked.

President Clinton insists that he truly wants a diplomatic solution. But it would be hard now for him to retreat from maximum demands, with some congressmen and columnists whooping for war.

The American message delivered at Davos was that this time the United States is serious, that the decision is all but irreversible, that American attacks on Iraq will begin around the end of this month and that they will be more violent, and will go on longer, than any since the end of the Gulf War.

Washington, it is said, has concluded that force is the only thing Saddam Hussein understands.

Actually, the record demonstrates something different: that the Iraqi president understands the political use of force better than the U.S. government. It is suggested that Saddam actually

wants his country attacked, since this would reinforce his position as the Arab leader willing to defy the United States — giving him a symbolic claim to leadership of all Arabs.

An American attack would undoubtedly cause the Iraqi leader to denounce UN arms inspections and sanctions, and to reclaim full sovereignty of action. His freedom of action would have been restored, at a great price to his nation's people, a price that has never before proved to inhibit him.

Journalistic speculation has also suggested that an American attack would, in some Arab eyes, justify an Iraqi missile attack on Israel, this time with more exotic munitions aboard than rocks, as in the Gulf War. As Israel must be expected to retaliate this time, whatever Washington wants, this provides further evidence that the situation is slipping out of American control.

Most of those politicians and commentators in Washington who actually want a new Gulf war, so as to finish off Saddam Hussein, are honest enough to acknowledge that this could be accomplished only with an invasion to seize control of Iraq. Their frankness tends to chill the discussion, since American forces would have to do the invading.

There is little enthusiasm for this in administration circles. The secretary of

defense, William Cohen, has taken pains to say that there should be no "unreasonable expectations" about what can be done, while insisting that U.S. objectives can be achieved without using ground forces. This implies that the Iraqi president's ouster is not a U.S. objective. In this respect, as in others, there seems no endgame strategy.

People nonetheless say otherwise. I have been assured that if an attack does not change Iraq's conduct, and if UN arms inspectors are not allowed back in, America has another plan for the longer term. What exactly is not revealed.

Possibly it is a quasi-permanent program of continuing attacks, directed — as Mr. Cohen said this past week — "toward limiting, curtailing, really preventing Saddam Hussein from reconstituting his capability in the near future at least."

Some in the administration give one the gloomy impression that they have heard this sort of thing before, possibly in connection with the Vietnam War. One official I spoke with struck me as afraid — unable to believe that Iraq would be changed by what the United States plans to do, but frightened about where the effort might take the Clinton administration and the country.

International Herald Tribune.
Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

Wei Jingsheng Is Inconvenient, and Not Just for Beijing

By Jim Hoagland

WASHINGTON — Tyrants jail and exile rebellious free spirits like Wei Jingsheng for speaking truth to and about them. As the Soviets feared Alexander Solzhenitsyn, the Chinese Communists fear Mr. Wei's intuitive understanding of their corrupt and inhumane system. The Chinese kept this former electrician and pamphleteer in prison for most of the past two decades to silence him.

That silence is now broken. Mr. Wei's enforced exile to the United States provides him a vast platform. The secret diplomacy that led to his release and expulsion in November have not tempered his truth-telling.

Gulping in the oxygen of freedom in the United States, Mr. Wei has begun to write opinion pieces and to deliver speeches that strongly challenge the view that China, with American engagement, is slowly evolving into a stable free-market democracy and U.S. ally.

China's expulsion of Mr. Wei may someday be seen as one of those seemingly smart moves that turn a problem into a disaster. It may rank with the shah of Iran's decision to force the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini into exile in Paris, where Mr. Khomeini used modern communications to stir rebellion in Tehran.

Mr. Wei clearly was not part of the deal Beijing thought it had with the Clinton administration to keep him on a tight leash. At a speech to the Council on Foreign Relations last week, Mr. Wei denounced Washington's embrace of Beijing as "selling out their friends and interests" in China and helping a regime he labeled "the enemy of the United States."

The language was stark. It clanged as extreme on the ears of some of the academics, politicians, labor leaders and others present. As he spoke, the calculated risk Beijing's rulers de-

cided to take in launching this dissident into the orbit of foreign exile became clearer. Away from Chinese soil he may be unable to sustain the acuity, indignation and knowledge that have illuminated his denunciation of a rotten system.

This is where the Solzhenitsyn analogy runs deep. Encountering Mr. Wei's version of U.S.-Chinese relations is reminiscent of the shock of reading a Spanish newspaper in 1975 reporting the Russian writer's unreserved admiration and approval of the Franco and Pinochet regimes. How can a genuine hero and rebel so acute about his own country be so misguided on others?

After asserting that the United States "unwisely ceded all the Eastern European countries to Stalin," Mr. Wei argued that "to save a few pennies, to settle certain personal scores" and acting "on the basis of lies

spoken" by "so-called China experts," the United States helped Mao Zedong's Communists take power in Beijing.

"The American people have become carried away by their own greatness. They refuse to draw lessons from their failures," Mr. Wei continued. Richard Nixon went to China to see Mao, "the greatest butcher of this century, and rescued the Chinese Communist regime from the jaws of death."

That version of history is not familiar to most Americans, and afterwards some in the audience seized on it to discount the rest of Mr. Wei's fiery, unyielding message. A counterattack to Mr. Wei's denunciations is forming among Beijing's friends here.

But it should come as no surprise that a man who has just spent 18 years in prison does not have a sophisticated grasp of international relations. Not should Mr. Wei's views of American motives, however flawed or one-

dimensional, detract from his penetrating analysis of the Communist leadership in China.

Instead, Americans should be alarmed at the prospect that Mr. Wei's views represent a broad feeling among Chinese democrats about U.S. reliability and intentions.

His general warning is that the United States is building up a future crisis with China by supporting a discredited regime. His specific warning, repeated several times at the Council meeting, is that America must not back away from criticizing China on human rights, to buy the freedom of dissidents or anything else.

Wei Jingsheng is an inconvenient man for governments. Exile in America has not lessened his ability, and determination, to speak unsettling thoughts to power. Beijing's wager that he will do them less damage abroad may turn out to be a historic miscalculation.

The Washington Post.

Get Set for Another Year of Living Dangerously in Asia

By Tom Plate

LOS ANGELES — The Asian crisis is of sufficient vintage now to qualify for the frequently asked questions treatment, along with my answers.

Question: Is the crisis starting to ebb?

Answer: Not at all. At best, Monday's rebound notwithstanding, it's in remission.

Q: But Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan says the impact on the United States is modest. What do you know that he doesn't know?

A: He's respected but not always right. Mr. Greenspan is focusing on the United States, which so far has not been hit much, and he's trying not to be alarmed. But he also admitted that because of Asia, the U.S. economy would start slowing by June. More than a million Amer-

icans are likely to lose their jobs next year because of lowered Asian demand for U.S. exports. Keep in mind, too, that Japan, the world's second-largest economy, is in big trouble and is big enough to pull America down if it falters further.

Last month when even the all-powerful minister of finance, Hiroshi Mitsuoka, resigned over a corruption scandal, I asked one of Japan's top newspaper editors for his assessment. From Tokyo, he faxed: "This is the tiniest tip of the iceberg. I would expect there would be a fundamental reorganization, unprecedented in the history" of the Finance Ministry. My friend does not casually throw around terms like "unprecedented."

Q: Indonesia looks a lot shakier; will it collapse?

A: Remember "The Year of Living Dangerously," the 1982 film about the fall of Sukarno? You might soon see the sequel. If revolution does come to the world's fourth most-populous nation, no one will shed many tears when President Suharto is finally gone. But recall Henry Kissinger's observation before the shah of Iran fell that whatever the many faults of the Peacock Throne, there was no assurance that the shah's successors would prove any better. One fears for Indonesia in coming months.

Q: Korea seems to be doing better, right?

A: History has given that star-crossed land President-elect

Kim Dae Jung. Miraculously, he seems to have persuaded the labor unions to swallow the substantial pain of patching up the economy. In a crisis there's no substitute for intelligent and strong leadership.

Q: Speaking of leadership, how's Bill Clinton doing?

A: Not bad, at least until recently. Remember the president's personal phone calls to Asian leaders? Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin's close watch on the collapse? Deputy Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers' hurried but reassuring swing through the region? These were all pluses. But can this administration keep up the intensity with all that is swirling around it now? Don't bet on it.

Q: How is the International Monetary Fund doing?

A: I wish the IMF weren't basically the only major institution we have on this case. In retrospect, the Japanese, led by their worldly wise multinationals, were right to want a separate but parallel Asia fund that could have injected money more quickly into panicked markets. But they were talked out of it by Mr. Rubin, who preferred leaving the crisis-management with the IMF. Too bad.

Certainly an earlier infusion of outside dough into Thailand, where the contagion broke out, might have slaked the panic and slowed the crisis. And the IMF cannot prevent recession. It tends to move slowly,

not to mention formulaically, so much so that countries sometimes are reluctant to ask for help and wind up infecting neighboring economies.

It was dumb to put all our eggs in the IMF basket. Even so, it's about all we have right now, and Congress may well fail to approve additional appropriations. Then the world will really wish we had listened to the Japanese.

Q: Haven't we learned anything from this crisis?

A: A little. We've got to come up with ways to lower the impact of hyperinflation on international money markets. On any given day, \$1.5 trillion can move across borders.

"The system," explains the UCLA economist Michael Intriligator, "creates a house of cards that will fall down from time to time. If we don't figure out some reform, it will fall down again."

Another emerging lesson is the crucial role of China as well as Japan. Beijing is trying to avoid devaluing its currency, but widespread social unrest could void that thoughtful policy. A Chinese devaluation, deepening the discount on their exports even further, would trigger another crash in Southeast Asia.

So the key to escaping world recession lies in Beijing and Tokyo. Mark 1998 down as another year of living dangerously.

Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

On Germany and American Jews

By David A. Harris

NEW YORK — In a meeting with an American Jewish delegation three years ago, President Roman Herzog of Germany asked an intriguing question: Why is it that German-Israeli relations are light years ahead of Germany's links with the American Jewish community?

All German-Jewish ties remain fraught with emotion. That said, there is nonetheless a dynamism in Germany's Israeli connection that is largely missing in its links with America's 6 million Jews.

Why such a difference in dealings with the world's two largest Jewish communities? Sovereignty, Israelis deal with Bonn on two levels, as a state and as a people. American Jews deal only on one level, as a people.

To survive as a new state, Israel had to find international support. Germany presented an opportunity. Precisely because Germany appeared determined to come to grips with its past and to establish itself in the family of Western democratic nations, the moral dilemma for Israel's statesmen was eased somewhat.

Even before the establishment of diplomatic ties, various restitution agreements provided Israel with financial and other assistance crucial to the fledgling state's existence. In 1965, after an impassioned Israeli debate, bilateral links were formalized. Today Ger-

many is Israel's second-largest trading partner and its closest ally in Europe.

The German record regarding Israel has not been perfect. While German companies were far from alone, their enthusiastic pursuit in the 1980s of exports — including dual-use technology — to Iraq and Libya was particularly disturbing. So, too, was Bonn's short-sighted policy on Iran.

Nevertheless, the German record is impressive and certainly better than that of the other major European countries. Israelis know it. Most American Jews, however, do not.

Reality is not static but dynamic. Time and history do not stand still, nor do the forces of international and human relations.

That is why, shortly after the establishment of the Federal Republic of Germany in 1949, the American Jewish Committee — at first tentatively after much soul searching — began to seek out in the new Germany those forces, governmental and nongovernmental, that were genuinely committed to writing a new chapter in German-Jewish relations.

Over the decades we developed extensive ties with German leaders. As a result we have been able to pursue

issues of critical importance.

Recently, for example, we addressed the needs of East European Holocaust survivors, who had never received any German compensation for their suffering, unlike their counterparts in the West. (An agreement to provide monthly pensions for as many as 20,000 East European survivors was announced in Bonn last month.)

With Germany's future the key to Europe's, and with Germany today the home of the fastest-growing Jewish community in the world, there is every reason to be present on the ground — as advocates for closer ties between Germany and American Jews, as friends of the soon to be 100,000-strong Jewish community in Germany and as supporters of those who hold Germany to the very highest democratic standards set for it by its leaders.

Thus on Monday, the American Jewish Committee will open an office in Berlin. An office is not quite an embassy. But it does reflect the maturing of the American Jewish community and a narrowing of the gap, however belatedly, that President Herzog so rightly identified.

The writer, executive director of the American Jewish Committee, contributed this column to the International Herald Tribune.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1898: Equine Flu

WASHINGTON — The Times' Washington correspondent cables that much surprise has been caused at the Department of Agriculture there by a statement made in the Prussian Diet by Baron von Hammerstein, Prussian Minister of Agriculture, that American horses brought influenza into the country and that it might be necessary to enforce quarantine against them. The officials of the Department emphatically discredited the probability of influenza, and they say that if the disease develops after importation it is contracted from animals in Germany.

alone now is more than most of them receive in a month. The officer of one German steamer who formerly courted a girl in the Bronx is now unable to call, as his pay of 20,000 marks a month is not enough to pay the carfare and take her to the movies.

1948: Bronze Age Man

KEYINGHAM, England — The skeleton of a Bronze Age man was uncovered in a gravel pit here yesterday [Feb. 5] and the Holderness coroner — observing English law — decided he had better have an inquest. The body had been buried in a crouching position, which archeologists said was the Bronze Age manner. Between the knees was a six-inch, brown earthenware vase of unusual beauty. Disposition of the skeleton will be decided at the inquest. It is believed that it will go to the Hull Museum.

1923: Broke Germans

NEW YORK — Sailors on German vessels docking at Hoboken are unable to visit this city since the subway fare

Herald Tribune

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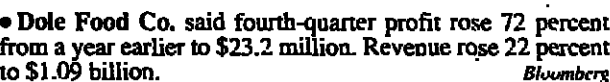
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International Herald Tribune, 181 Avenue Charles-de-Gaulle, 92521 Neuilly-sur-Seine, France.
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Internet address: <http://www.ihb.com> E-Mail: ihb@ihb.com
Editor for Asia: Michael Richardson, 5 Convent Road, Singapore 119000. Tel: (65) 472-7768. Fax: (65) 274-2334
Mgr. Dir. Asia, Terry Danner, 30 Gloucester Rd., Hong Kong. Tel: 852-2922-1188. Fax: 852-2922-1190
Gen. Mgr. Germany: T. Schiller, Friedrichstr. 15, 10223 Frankfurt, Tel: 49-69-971250-0. Fax: 49-69-971250-20
Fax: U.S. Am. Edition, 60 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10012. Tel: (212) 512-3800. Fax: (212) 755-4785
U.K. Advertising Office: 63 Long Acre, London WC2E, Tel: (171) 636-4802. Fax: (171) 240-2254
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Wall Street Warms to Buoyant Rise in U.S. Employment



Polaroid in Talks With

adjusted admissions, which reflect inpatient and outpatient admissions, rose 2 percent.

(Bloomberg, AP)

Strength in U.S. Lab

investigation because nickel is not traded on the exchange, a spokesman said. He added that the ministry investigated possible illicit trades only when there was evidence of market manipulation.

The dollar surged to 1.8083 DM late in 4 P.M. New York trading, compared with 1.7870 DM at the end of the day Thursday. It also rose

The gains Friday notwithstanding, the dollar finished the week

\$1,6543.

The gains Friday notwithstanding, the dollar finished the week

INTERNATIONAL FUTURES

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The 2,600 most traded stocks of the day.
 Nationwide prices not reflecting late trades elsewhere.
 The Associated Press.

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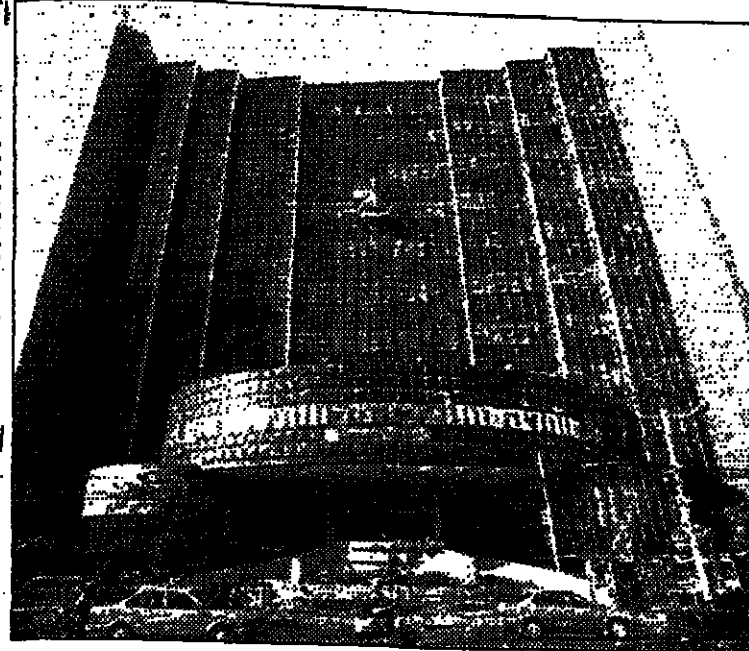
Continued on Page 14

Thailand Takes On Troubled Ba

1. *Forging*
 2. *Forging*

OBAL: Argentina, a Par

ASIA/PACIFIC



The headquarters of Siam City Bank in Bangkok. The government took over Siam City and First Bangkok City Bank on Friday.

Thailand Takes Over Two Troubled Banks

Bloomberg News
BANGKOK — First Bangkok City Bank PCL and Siam City Bank PCL were seized by the government Friday, in a sign that the country is getting tough with its troubled lenders.

First Bangkok City, the country's seventh-largest bank, and Siam City, the eighth, were taken over by the Thai central bank after they failed to meet a deadline to raise more capital.

Both were ordered to use most of their shareholder equity to write off bad loans. Siam City was also ordered to replace most of its senior executives.

The takeover of the two banks, with combined assets of about 594 billion baht (\$12.18 billion), was a litmus test of the government's resolve to strengthen the country's banking industry.

Two years ago, the government took over Bangkok Bank of Commerce PCL to stem a run; two weeks ago, it was the turn of Bangkok Metropolitan Bank PCL. With the two seizures announced Friday, the

government now controls four of the country's 15 commercial banks.

"This completes the process of solving urgent problems in the financial industry," said a Bank of Thailand governor, Chaiyavut Wibulswadi. "The remaining banks have no urgent problems."

Thailand's banks were weakened by a slump in the country's stock and property markets in the past two years. Then, a devaluation of the Thai baht made it difficult for many companies to repay foreign-currency debt.

Now, the country is teetering toward recession, and up to a third of Thai banks' loans are delinquent by six months or more. Like Indonesia and other Asian countries, Thailand is trying to convince international investors and its own people that its banks are sound.

Thailand did not have much choice. In return for \$17.2 billion emergency credit arranged by the International Monetary Fund last year, the Thai government agreed to close or take over insolvent finance companies.

It was also barred from lending more money to bankrupt lenders. The central bank, through its Financial Institutions Development Fund, had lent more than 600 billion baht to troubled lenders in an attempt to keep many of them afloat.

As part of the restructuring Friday, First Bangkok City Bank was told to wipe out 99 percent of equity, or 9.9 billion baht. The Financial Institutions Development Fund will now swap 32 billion baht of loans it made to First Bangkok for new shares.

Siam City must wipe out 90 percent of its equity, or 5.5 billion baht. Old shares are worth a tenth of what they were before.

The central bank will provide 20 billion baht of new equity in loan swaps with Siam City. Its management was also overhauled.

Bangkok Bank of Commerce will write off 95 percent of its equity, or 33.8 billion baht. An additional 10 billion baht of development fund loans will be swapped for new capital.

A Big Spender to Sell at a Loss

But Sino Land and the Ng Family Plan to Weather the Crisis

Bloomberg News
HONG KONG — In the heyday of Hong Kong property, when home prices were rising 50 percent a year, Robert Ng outspent everyone to buy what he wanted.

Now, the bill is coming due. With prices down 40 percent since August and still falling, Mr. Ng and his family, who run Sino Land Co., plan to sell two apartment complexes at a loss to raise cash.

In Singapore, where Robert Ng's father, Ng Teng Fong, built a fortune in property, the Ngs have asked for more time to pay a \$164 million bill to the government.

Sino Land stock, meanwhile, has fallen 48 percent this year as Mr. Ng and his executives have tried to quash speculation that the company might default on debt. The stock finished unchanged on Friday, at 2.48 Hong Kong dollars (32 cents).

"We are not in any financial trouble," said Michael Cheng, the finance director at Sino Land. Robert Ng is no stranger to struggles. In the 1987 stock-market plunge, Sino Land lost about \$125 million. It took several years to claw its way back.

The Far East Organization, Ng family's Singapore flagship, asked the government to give it more time to make 271.6 million Singapore dollars (\$163.7 million) in land payments. It won that extension on Thursday. The company sought to

delay its payment in Singapore to see if interest rates would decline, Robert's brother, Philip Ng, told the Straits Times newspaper.

Mr. Cheng said the company probably would not recoup its development costs for a property on Farm Road, in Hong Kong's Kowloon area. Another development will also probably be sold at a loss. But he added that the money-losing sales would be more than balanced by other profitable ones. The firm will have more than enough cash to cover 1.2 billion Hong Kong dollars of interest payments each year. "Even if you include debt owed by associates,"

Mr. Cheng said, "our annual debt payments are about \$2 billion a year, which we will cover easily."

Many analysts, though, said the Ngs would have to work harder to persuade shareholders that Sino Land can meet its bills.

In Singapore, the family's Orchard Properties Holdings Ltd. has a debt-to-equity ratio of about 200 percent, about five times what the Ngs say Sino Land's ratio is.

Lim Chung Chun, an analyst at Ing Baring Securities Ltd., said, "Without the support of strong family backing the company would be in considerable trouble during the current weak market."

Sino Land Sees Lower Debt Burden

Reuters
HONG KONG — Sino Land Co. said Friday it expected revenue of about 6 billion Hong Kong dollars (\$775.6 million) from apartment sales, which would help the company to lower its debt burden.

Sino Land said the sales, from now to the end of the year, would cut its debt to between 6 billion and 7 billion dollars from about 10 billion dollars. The company said in November it was expecting to sell 18 billion to 19 billion dollars' worth of residential units in Hong Kong in financial year 1997-98. Sino's finance director, Michael Cheng, said the 6 billion-dollar fig-

ure referred to the amount that Sino Land would receive from development sales. Many of the projects are owned with partners.

Mr. Cheng said Sino Land and its subsidiaries had reduced their debt to less than 10 billion dollars from 11.5 billion dollars at the end of June 1997. "I don't see any liquidity problems," he added. Sino Hong Kai Properties Ltd. shocked the market this week when it launched the sale of 86 units at Villa Rhapsody, part of its Symphony Bay development, at a 33 percent discount to a previous batch of flats sold at Symphony Bay in December.

Mahathir Pushes for No-Dollar Zone

The Associated Press
KUALA LUMPUR — Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad of Malaysia will take to Singapore on Saturday a proposal to replace the U.S. dollar with regional currencies for some Southeast Asian trade.

But the idea, meant to curtail wild currency fluctuations, is unlikely to get a strong endorsement from Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong during the two leaders' lunch meeting at the Sentosa Island golf course.

Because of Singapore's strong economic fundamentals, high savings rate, control of property booms and managed debt, its currency has remained much stronger than other Asian currencies.

On Friday in Thailand, Mr. Mahathir said that Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand had agreed to do business with each other in their own currencies as a way of reducing dependence on the dollar.

Mr. Mahathir said the countries would set up a "central clearinghouse" for currency transactions among Association of South East Asian Nations members. ASEAN

comprises Brunei, Burma, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

"We buy something from you, and you buy something from us," he said of the system. "We just pay the difference."

Mr. Mahathir said that although the trade would involve just the private sector, ASEAN governments would have to oversee the new exchange mechanism.

Mr. Mahathir said he hoped that the plan could be expanded throughout the region, adding that he would propose it to President Fidel Ramos of the Philippines, with whom he was to meet before flying to Singapore.

The idea of using regional currencies for trade was proposed late last year at the ASEAN summit meeting in Kuala Lumpur. Such a policy has been suggested by the ASEAN Free Trade Area, a regional bloc.

But few economists believe it is feasible now. "This may be a part of a wider Malaysian attempt to assert some leadership in the region," said Bruce Gale of Political & Economic Risk Consultancy Ltd. in Singapore.

Japan Says Its Economy Has 'Stagnated'

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

TOKYO — The Japanese economy has "stagnated" as pessimism among consumers and companies continues to depress spending and capital investment, the government said Friday.

The Economic Planning Agency lowered its assessment of the economy for the sixth straight month, using the term "stagnated" in its February report for the first time since January 1975, when the econ-

omy was reeling from soaring oil prices.

"The situation isn't going to get any worse," said Akira Furukawa of the agency's research bureau, "but it's still going to be dire."

None of Japan's economic indicators points to a recovery, the agency said, with retail sales, home sales, jobs and wages falling and companies having difficulty borrowing from banks.

The Trade Ministry said Friday

that Japan's credit crunch was no longer affecting just smaller companies, with more than 40 percent of large companies now facing tight lending conditions.

Mr. Furukawa said he could neither confirm nor deny that Japan was in recession.

"The risk of the economy improving is about the same as the risk of the economy continuing to weaken," he said. "But it's not going to nose-dive." (Bloomberg, Reuters)

Investor's Asia

Hong Kong Hang Seng	Singapore Straits Times	Tokyo Nikkei 225
17000	2000	20000
15000	1750	18500
13000	1500	17000
11000	1250	15500
9000	1000	14000
7000	750	12500
1997	1997	1997
Exchange Index	Friday Close	Friday Close
Hong Kong Hang Seng	10,405.88	10,442.15
Singapore Straits Times	1,536.81	1,492.15
Sydney All Ordinaries	2,656.10	2,657.30
Tokyo Nikkei 225	17,946.06	17,003.36
Kuala Lumpur Composite	728.19	712.81
Bangkok SET	535.38	531.11
Seoul Composite Index	548.45	528.05
Taipei Stock Market Index	8,544.14	8,821.97
Mexico PSE	2,036.78	2,048.15
Jakarta Composite Index	535.48	513.48
Wellington NZSE-40	Closed	2,242.78
Bombay Sensitive Index	3,366.70	3,357.48

Very briefly:

• Taiwan livestock breeders boycotted grain imports from the United States to retaliate against U.S. pressure on Taiwan to announce farm-trade concessions. Taiwan is reported to have agreed to cut tariffs on pork and chicken imports in exchange for Washington's support for the island's bid to join the World Trade Organization in negotiations next week.

• Toyota Motor Corp. sold bonds in Japan for the first time in 27 years to take advantage of low interest rates. Toyota, which is paying 2.35 percent interest on most of the 200 billion yen (\$1.6 billion) in 10- and 20-year bonds, will use the money to redeem Eurobonds that were costing 5.625 percent.

• Long-Term Credit Bank of Japan Ltd. is paying twice as much of a yield premium on its five-year debentures, compared with two months ago, according to the Japan Securities Dealers Association. The bank raises about half its funds through the sale of such unsecured bonds.

• Nomura Securities Co. expects to make a pretax profit of 100 billion yen (\$807 million) for the financial year ending March 31. The brokerage reported a pretax loss of 198 billion yen for the previous financial year. Nomura, hit by a series of racketeering scandals, was suspended from stock trading on its own account until the end of 1997 and was also temporarily barred from taking part in government bond auctions.

• The Hong Kong Tourist Association said 1997 visitor arrivals fell 11 percent, to 10.4 million as tourism revenue sank 15 percent, to 72.1 billion Hong Kong dollars (\$9.32 billion).

• Banco Santander SA, Spain's biggest bank, said it submitted a proposal to Hong Kong authorities to hire 150 members of the equity team of the bankrupt company Peregrine Investments Holdings Ltd. The team is headed by Andrew Jamieson, chief executive officer of Peregrine Securities. (Bloomberg, Reuters, AFP)

Fujitsu Cuts Profit Outlook By 78% Over Slumping Sales

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

TOKYO — Fujitsu Ltd. cut its group net profit outlook for the year through March by 78 percent Friday because of slumping sales of personal computers, memory chips and mobile phones.

The No. 1 Japanese computer maker said it expected a group net profit of 10 billion yen (\$80.6 million) for the period, against the 46 billion yen it forecast in October and the 46.15 billion yen it posted in its last year.

Fujitsu is the fourth of Japan's five largest chipmakers to announce worse-than-expected earnings forecasts for the current year. Its shares finished down 10 yen to 1,450.

Restructuring and other costs of related to Fujitsu's purchase in September of the rest of U.S. mainframe computer unit, Amdehl Corp., will be 45 billion yen this year, a director, Takashi Takaya, said. 10 billion yen more than estimated. (Bloomberg, Reuters)

GLOBAL: Argentina, a Paradigm of the New Economic Order, Grapples With the Effects of Change

Continued from Page 1

ident Carlos Saul Menem could find — were privatized or sold to international investors as the country embraced free-market capitalism with the vengeance it had once shown in nationalizing everything.

"We're a country of extremes," said Hector Sabato, director of tourism in the southern town of Bariloche. "The old theme of the invading Yankee has given way to the wonderful Yankee driving the global train that you'd better board immediately or you're finished!"

So the shock has been that much greater as globalization has shown its other face. Since the Asian crisis hit, plants have been idled, growth forecasts have been slashed and the Argentine stock market has plunged more than 25 percent — although from historic heights.

"What's frightening," said Jorge Bustamante of Merchant Bankers Associates, the Buenos Aires representatives of Salomon Brothers, "is that however much you scream you're not a region, not the developing world, you're Argentina, you're different, it doesn't matter."

Latin America resembles Asia in its acute dependence on international capital, but in other ways it is indeed profoundly different. The region has been through two financial collapses — the debt crisis of the 1980s and the Mexican meltdown of late 1994. These battered the banking system and left sobered banks, now often in foreign hands. The scope for nasty surprises of the South Korean or Indonesian variety has been sharply curtailed.

"Hot money," — the huge short-term capital flows at the heart of the Asian crisis — has ceded the dominant place it once held in Latin America to longer-term investment, of the kind now being made by Ford, RJR Nabisco, Nestle and countless others.

Yet, such distinctions appear to have only limited value.

"The financial risks of globalization are a lot bigger than optimists imagined," said Paul Krugman, a professor of economics at Massachusetts Institute of Technol-

ogy. "We are back to a volatile, pre-Depression world economy of financial booms and busts quite different from the Cold War years."

In Argentina, this volatility has fueled opposition to what is widely considered neo-liberalism, or *capitalismo salvaje*: the radical application of the free-market model personified by the United States. Unaccustomed to living with economic pain — such as the millions of unemployed in Brazil who have never found a way to join the economy — Argentines are discovering what permanent exclusion from the job market means.

Already a political reaction is evident. An alliance of opposition parties defeated Mr. Menem's Peronist Party in congressional elections in October. If a new crisis enveloped the region, the reaction to neo-liberalism could be violent.

At the headquarters of the Roman Catholic diocese in the city of San Salvador de Jujuy, a sign on the door reads, "We regret that we cannot attend the unemployed here." "Bishop Marcelo Palentini is overwhelmed. He sits behind a computer, working a cellular phone and an electronic agenda, but he does not like the modern world."

In the province of Jujuy, he estimates, 42 percent of the population is unemployed or doing menial work. People used to ask for raises; now they ask for a job.

Jujuy long had a bloated state payroll, a massively subsidized state-owned steel company, and labor-intensive sugar, tobacco and fruit farms. Then, in the 1990s, the free-market revolution arrived.

The provincial bank was privatized. The power utility was privatized. The postal service was privatized. The steel company was sold to Citicorp Equity, an Argentine investment group 40 percent owned by Citicorp. The phones were bought by Telecom, a private international group. Agriculture was transformed by imported American machines, each replacing 80

Last year the unemployed let their resentment show. Angry people blocked 21 provincial highways for several days. They held hunger strikes in which five unemployed men sewed up their mouths. Several people were injured.

The protests eased only after the mediation of Bishop Palentini. He helped to hammer out an agreement creating six-month "work contracts" for several hundred unemployed, who agreed to do menial jobs for \$200 a month.

Privatization, the bishop said, is positive, "but capital must consider a social dimension."

Still, for the Peronist governor of Jujuy, Carlos Alfonsín Ferraro, privatization is just beginning. Sitting in an office adorned with photographs of General Juan Peron and his wife Eva, he explained, "Look, it's simple. There is an Americanization of the world. We cannot go in the opposite direction. At last we are going to make America here."

And what of the photos of the Perons, the very symbols of a state-dominated, nationalist Latin American model? Peronism means revolution, the governor said. That meant nationalization in 1946 and privatization today.

"The heart of Peronism is economic independence," he beamed, "and how could I be independent when my phones didn't work?"

When Peron took power in the 1940s, he set about distributing Argentina's prosperity — comparable to that of leading European countries — to build a mass following.

By 1990, in the words of Carlos Fedrigotti, Citicorp's chief executive in Argentina, "the place had simply collapsed beneath the waste, corruption and mismanagement of a welfare state gone wild."

Argentina's travails were those of a protectionist, coup-plagued continent. Because the economy had failed so completely, when the Berlin Wall fell and Mr. Menem abruptly decided to undo Peron's leg-

acy, Argentina was something close to a blank canvas.

With the economic reforms, growth surged, reaching 8 percent in the first nine months of this year. American investment, including that of the New York financier George Soros, poured in.

But if it has drawn the favors of international investors through its reforms, Argentina has also become plagued by new uncertainties.

To look into the vacant eyes of Roberto Angel Garcia is to understand something of the cruelty of the economic upheaval that competing with the world has meant for Latin America.

There is an Americanization of the world. We cannot go in the opposite direction. At last we are going to make America here.

Mr. Garcia was dismissed in 1992 along with thousands of other workers from Citicorp Equity's Aceros Zapla steel plant in the town of Palpalá. Long run by the armed forces, it was legendary for its padded contracts until privatization came. Then its work force was slashed to 709 people from 5,000. The company now produces high-quality special steels and expects to start making a profit this year.

The change will no doubt bring benefits in the long term: Postwar development shows that countries that open to trade ultimately do better. But Mr. Garcia is paying the price for the adjustment.

At 53, he was too young for a pension, too old to find other work. "They told us we were being fired because we were losing money," he said, "but nobody had ever talked about losses before."

Throughout Latin America, industries that could once afford to be inefficient because high inflation, repeated devaluations and scant competition from imports masked their failings suddenly find themselves in

a desperate push for productivity.

To be productive — to make more shoes or cookies per employee — generally involves using fewer people and the better machines now available from elsewhere. The job cuts tend to fall on the old, who then join the globally unemployed.

A gargantuan union leader in Jujuy, Carlos Santillan, known as El Perro, or the Dog, has become the mouthpiece of the unskilled outcasts.

"Menem thinks that by putting our country at the service of the International Monetary Fund, he brought us into the First World," he said. "But workers have lost in a few years rights they fought for over a century. We're a colony here. All that is missing is to have Clinton come here and plant the American flag."

Indeed the single most potent symbol of the new Argentina is the dollar. For decades, citizens used to start the day by checking the dollar rate. Inevitably the inflation-racked peso had fallen.

After yet another bout of hyperinflation, a currency board similar to Hong Kong's was established in 1991 and a rate of one peso to one dollar was established by law. Not a peso can be printed unless it is backed by a dollar.

Of course the dollar-peso convertibility carries a price. Argentina is expensive. Salaries — about \$700 a month in a factory — are relatively high. It is hard for businesses to compete globally.

Moreover the strong currency, in an open economy, sucks in imports. Entire industries — toys among them — have been wiped out by cheap imports from China, where a worker's wage may be no more than \$40 a month. Argentina, with its exports to Brazil affected by the Asian-induced downturn there, faces a rising trade deficit in 1998.

To offset this, it is essential that international capital, already threatened by Asia, continue to flow — which it will do only if Argentina's productivity continues to rise.

"With the United States as a reference, you have to run all the time," Mr. Bustamante, the banker, said. "Convertibility means you can never relax."

WORKERS: Fear in Indonesia

Continued from Page 1

third, to 8.5 million. This fast-rising number and steep increases in prices for many basic commodities have fueled concern that widespread unrest could threaten the stability of the nation.

As Indonesia prepares for the confirmation of President Suharto next month to a seventh five-year term, economic pressures have mingled with political tensions to produce its worst crisis in decades.

The crucial question, as one longtime foreign resident here put it, is: "Can you translate 'I don't have any bread' into 'Damn the government'?" If a factory closes, who does the worker get mad at? Does he curse the government or does he curse his employer?"

The answer among the workers at the Gunawan steel plant suggested that Mr. Suharto's policy of depoliticizing Indonesia has been bearing fruit. During his 32 years in power, the president has co-opted opposition parties, banned grassroots political activity and persuaded most people to leave the governing to him.

The grumbling of the men who waited by their motorcycles Thursday was aimed not at the government but at their employer, whom they accused of using the economic crisis as a cover for squeezing their pay and benefits.

When asked whether the government was to blame for their hardships, a worker grew quiet. "I don't want to talk about that," he said, and he insisted that his name not be printed. "I don't dare talk about the government."

The man, who wore a dirty red Ralph Lauren sweatshirt, said social unrest was a real possibility as unemployment rises. More certainly, he said, jobless workers were likely to turn to crime to feed their

families. "It's a matter of the stomach," he said. "Stomachs are very sensitive."

The announcement was a powerful performance by the factory owners and local security forces. Five men took their turns at a microphone: a company representative, a provincial official, the Manpower Ministry, and the army and police commanders.

Bambang, a member of the company's board of directors — who like many Indonesians uses only one name — took the occasion to blame some of the company's troubles on agitators who had led a recent slowdown to demand bigger annual bonuses.

"The management tried to keep our ship from sinking," he said, "but unfortunately the efforts of the company did not get the support of all of you."

The army commander, Lieutenant Colonel Kadri Kusuman, put it another way: "Those of you who lose your jobs, don't ask the ones who still have work to join a boycott. I warn you: If you do not do your jobs properly, the company will suffer."

In case any of the workers had missed the message, the police chief, Lieutenant Colonel Sumaryono, said: "We from the police will take firm measures against all people who take such actions. We call on you to stop provocations, stop preventing others from working. After the company reopens tomorrow, we will continue monitoring you."

Then he added the hope of authorities in factory towns around the country: "Those of you who lose your jobs, please go home to your villages."

Only one statement Thursday drew applause — the only statement to offer a bleak suggestion of hope. "From the seeds of suffering," the union representative said, "we can grow a better future."

The 1,000 most traded National Market securities
in terms of dollar value, updated twice a year.
The Associated Press.

1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100
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Month	Stock	Dr	Yld	Pct	High	Low	Latent	Crgs
37	UnvPfd	1.86	3.5	17	363	429	47%	7%
36	UnvPfd	1.78	3.2	17	363	429	47%	7%
35	UnvPfd	1.70	3.0	17	363	429	47%	7%
34	UnvPfd	1.62	2.8	17	363	429	47%	7%
33	UnvPfd	1.54	2.6	17	363	429	47%	7%
32	UnvPfd	1.46	2.4	17	363	429	47%	7%
31	UnvPfd	1.38	2.2	17	363	429	47%	7%
30	UnvPfd	1.30	2.0	17	363	429	47%	7%
29	UnvPfd	1.22	1.8	17	363	429	47%	7%
28	UnvPfd	1.14	1.6	17	363	429	47%	7%
27	UnvPfd	1.06	1.4	17	363	429	47%	7%
26	UnvPfd	0.98	1.2	17	363	429	47%	7%
25	UnvPfd	0.90	1.0	17	363	429	47%	7%
24	UnvPfd	0.82	0.8	17	363	429	47%	7%
23	UnvPfd	0.74	0.6	17	363	429	47%	7%
22	UnvPfd	0.66	0.4	17	363	429	47%	7%
21	UnvPfd	0.58	0.2	17	363	429	47%	7%
20	UnvPfd	0.50	0.0	17	363	429	47%	7%
19	UnvPfd	0.42	-0.2	17	363	429	47%	7%
18	UnvPfd	0.34	-0.4	17	363	429	47%	7%
17	UnvPfd	0.26	-0.6	17	363	429	47%	7%
16	UnvPfd	0.18	-0.8	17	363	429	47%	7%
15	UnvPfd	0.10	-1.0	17	363	429	47%	7%
14	UnvPfd	0.02	-1.2	17	363	429	47%	7%
13	UnvPfd	-0.06	-1.4	17	363	429	47%	7%
12	UnvPfd	-0.14	-1.6	17	363	429	47%	7%
11	UnvPfd	-0.22	-1.8	17	363	429	47%	7%
10	UnvPfd	-0.30	-2.0	17	363	429	47%	7%
9	UnvPfd	-0.38	-2.2	17	363	429	47%	7%
8	UnvPfd	-0.46	-2.4	17	363	429	47%	7%
7	UnvPfd	-0.54	-2.6	17	363	429	47%	7%
6	UnvPfd	-0.62	-2.8	17	363	429	47%	7%
5	UnvPfd	-0.70	-3.0	17	363	429	47%	7%
4	UnvPfd	-0.78	-3.2	17	363	429	47%	7%
3	UnvPfd	-0.86	-3.4	17	363	429	47%	7%
2	UnvPfd	-0.94	-3.6	17	363	429	47%	7%
1	UnvPfd	-1.02	-3.8	17	363	429	47%	7%
37	UnvPfd	1.86	3.5	17	363	429	47%	7%
36	UnvPfd	1.78	3.2	17	363	429	47%	7%
35	UnvPfd	1.70	3.0	17	363	429	47%	7%
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23	UnvPfd	0.74	0.6	17	363	429	47%	7%
22	UnvPfd	0.66	0.4	17	363	429	47%	7%
21	UnvPfd	0.58	0.2	17	363	429	47%	7%
20	UnvPfd	0.50	0					

THE REPORT

Quarterly Scoreboard: A Track Record of Investment Advice

A review of investment tips that appeared in The Money Report in the fourth quarter, and subsequent performance of the investments recommended. Prices quoted are from the trading day immediately preceding the publication date listed and in local currency. Analysts' affiliations are provided the first time they are mentioned.

Company Ticker Exchange	Sector	Who	Prediction	Issue	Price then	Price now	COMPANIES Company Ticker Exchange	Sector	Who	Prediction	Issue	Price then	Price now
ASB Asia ASB ASB	Construction	Henry Gooss managing director, general client affairs, Chase Manhattan Bank New York	Buy	Oct. 11	2183.00	1880.00	Coca-Cola Co. KO U.S.	Beverages	Thomas McEneaney	Very reasonable	Oct. 11	61.6875	64.75
ASB Armo ASB ASB	Bank	Henry Gooss	Buy, first-rate organization	Oct. 11	40.00	41.50	Comcast CMCSA NASDAQ	Communications	Robert Pelkey Hermando Corina	Buy	Dec. 27	15.50	15.90
Ascor SA ASB ASB	Employment company	Michael Levy managing director, head of real estate services Trust New York	Buy for aggressive growth	Oct. 11	527.00	458.50	Continental Airlines Inc. CAH U.S.	Airlines	Solomon Lifshitz analyst CPI Finance Paris	Undervalued	Dec. 6	162.00	165.00
Ascor AG ASB ASB	Apparel	Michael Levy	Buy	Oct. 11	236.00	268.00	Computer Associates Int'l. Inc. CA U.S.	Software	William Pabon Tennessee equity research analyst JP Morgan	Will profit from year 2000 software	Dec. 27	47.9375	53.1975
Ascor Software ASB ASB	Software maker	Peter Canale U.S. investment strategist Morgan Stanley Dept. Wiley Davison New York	Buy, may make a lot someday	Oct. 11	30.00	28.875	Continental Airlines Inc. CAH U.S.	Airlines	Tom Sparrow analyst CPI Finance Paris	Dec. 6	48.9125	51.3750	
As New Zealand ASB ASB	Airline	Kevin Barnett equity research analyst Deputy Treasurer Barton Williams	Buy, 8 shares to reach 100,000 in one year	Oct. 25	3.60	2.85	Corrections Corp. CXO U.S.	Prison management	Andrew Lutz O'Donnell Lynch & Co.	Buy	Nov. 22	34.00	36.8750
Aluminum Co. of America AL U.S.	Aluminum	Marill Lynch	Buy	Nov. 29	67.25	76.375	Corrections Corp. CXO U.S.	Prison management	Phil Finner Group Seminole San Francisco	Shares to hit \$18 in 12 months	Nov. 22	11.750	13.00
Amcor Ltd. AMC Australia	Paper, packaging	Maureen Equibale Sydney	Buy	Oct. 25	7.40	6.82	Credit Suisse CS U.S.	Bank	Michael Levy	Buy	Oct. 11	4123.00	6718.00
American Farm Products Corp. AFP U.S.	Pharmaceuticals	Peter Canale	Buy for strong demand	Oct. 11	72.50	55.4375	Credit Suisse CS U.S.	Bank	Michael Levy	Buy	Oct. 11	4123.00	6718.00
American Shilling Corp. ASB U.S.	Passes	Barry Rothberg analyst Futures Intl. New York	Shares will double to \$20 by end-1998	Dec. 6	15.625	13.8125	Danisco DS Denmark	Food	Richard Davidson European equity analyst Morgan Stanley, Dean Winter, Deutsche	Buy	Dec. 27	1069.00	1201.00
American Shilling Corp. ASB U.S.	Passes	Mark Mannion budgets analyst Deutsche, Lufkin & Janelli New York	Buy, shares to reach \$25 in 12 months	Dec. 6	15.625	13.8125	Danisco DS Denmark	Food	Richard Davidson European equity analyst Morgan Stanley, Dean Winter, Deutsche	Buy	Dec. 27	1069.00	1201.00
American Shilling Corp. ASB U.S.	Passes	Mark Mannion budgets analyst Deutsche, Lufkin & Janelli New York	Buy, shares to reach \$25 in 12 months	Dec. 6	15.625	13.8125	Danisco DS Denmark	Food	Richard Davidson European equity analyst Morgan Stanley, Dean Winter, Deutsche	Buy	Dec. 27	1069.00	1201.00
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Nice Forest, Scrawny Trees

4th-Quarter Picks Indicate Telescopes Beat Microscopes

By Aline Sullivan

TO ASK FOR ADVICE may be, in nine cases out of 10, to tout for flattery, said the 19th-century wit Churton Collins. But even in the 10th case, the request may not elicit information of much use: Ask professional investors what to buy and it seems they simply laud what they know best.

That, as demonstrated in The Money Report by some of this quarter's picks and pans, does not always make for the most lucrative advice. At least on some occasions, it appears that great familiarity with local investment opportunities can breed too high a regard.

For example, Singapore's Straits Times index may yet reach 1,800 by the end of this year, as predicted Dec. 27 by Kevin Cully, head of research at Schroder Securities (Singapore). But first it must reverse direction: The index sank 292.6 points, or 19 percent, in January.

Likewise, Air New Zealand B-shares may indeed rise to 5 New Zealand dollars (\$2.90) in a year, as predicted Oct. 25 by Kevin Bennett, equity research chief at Doyle Paterson Brown in Wellington. But they will have to more than recoup the 20 percent loss that they posted after the forecast was made.

In the United States, the analysts at Smith Barney must rue the day — Nov. 1, to be exact — when they labeled a home-grown company, Noble Drilling Corp., "reasonably priced." The shares have since dropped 24 percent.

"Sometimes, knowing your own country too well can be a terrible thing," observed Jim Rogers, author of "Investment Biker" and co-founder of the Quantum Fund. "Investors are too focused on every little tree to see the forest."

Of course, all these recommendations may turn out right in the end. A period of one month — or even four months — provides only a hint as to how forecasts intended for a year will fare.

Indeed, two of the three American depositary receipts that fared so badly in the first quarterly review of The Money Report's picks and pans in November — the Mexican

picks and pans in November — the Mexican cement company Cemex Internacional SA and the German chemical company Hoechst AG — have since started to recover. The third ADR on the list, Sony Corp., has finally justified the recommendation by rising 2 percent.

Shane Oliver, chief economist at AMP Investments Australia Ltd., saw his worst fears come true when the Asian financial crisis spread in recent months to South Korea. But the effect on Australia's exports has not been what he expected, at least so far. Instead, the Sydney All Share Ordinaries

pected, at least so far. Instead, the Sydney All Share Ordinaries Index rose 4 percent and may be on target to reach the 2,850 points that Mr. Shane had forecast by mid-1998, assuming the Asian crisis remained contained.

No one would suggest that ignorance is bliss in the marketplace. But it does appear that distance coupled with knowledge can sometimes enhance an investor's perspective.

Consider the Oct. 11 recommendations of Michael Levy, managing director at Bankers Trust New York Co. The U.S. software maker Oracle Corp., one of the companies closest to home, fared the worst, down 36 percent. WorldCom Inc. and British Aerospace PLC also were not great successes.

But most of his continental European picks were excellent: Portugal Telecom SA and France's AXA-UAP SA each rose 27 percent, Suez Lyonnaise des Eaux SA of France rose 17 percent, Spain's Banco Santander SA was up 27 percent and Adidas AG of Germany gained 13 percent.

Mr. Levy also identified what proved to be the quarter's star performer: Credito Italiano SpA, which has soared an astounding 60 percent since he cited it on Oct. 11.

On the same day, Jean-Marie Eveillard, president and portfolio manager of the SoGen International Fund, who is also based in New York, called the German software maker SAP AG "a great company." Its shares have since gained 32 percent.

But in the United States, where Mr. Eveillard has lived and worked for 20 years, he called it wrong: Shares in the packaging group Zero Corp. slid 8 percent.

These fund managers are paid to think globally, so it may not be surprising that they seem more at home in the major foreign markets than in their own. Relying on someone based

in New York or London for information on Papua New Guinea may be too great a test for the analyst's sophistication, however. Investors outside the big markets should seek local

Those who did so in Bermuda have reason to be pleased. Three of the four Bermudian companies cited by local analysts on Nov. 1 performed well: Bank of N.T. Butterfield Ltd. and

on Nov. 1 performed well: Bank of N.T. Butterfield Ltd. and Bank of Bermuda Ltd. each rose 25 percent, while Bermuda Telephone Co. gained 4 percent. TeleBermuda International Ltd., which slid 3 percent, was the only disappointment.

MORE alarming than professional investors who sometimes cannot see the woods for the trees in their own backyards are those who recommend what they own. It is not necessarily what they would like to buy.

A case in point: Four of the five U.S. real estate investment trusts that were praised on Oct. 4 by real-estate fund managers who mostly owned the shares subsequently slipped in value. (REIT shares in general plunged on Monday, the day after this data was compiled, in response to the Clinton administration's

data was compiled, in response to the Clinton administration's proposed budget for fiscal year 1999, which affects the tax-exempt status of a traditional REIT while operating other businesses. Traditional REITs are not permitted to operate non-real-estate businesses.)

More generally, readers may remember that seven of the 10 shares recommended on July 19 as "fresh money buys" by Byron Wien, U.S. equity strategist at Morgan Stanley, Dean Winter, Discover & Co. in New York, proved successful three months later. Since then, their performance has been more

months later. Since then, their performance has been more mixed: Citicorp slid 4 percent in the following three months, Diamond Offshore Drilling Inc. fell 7 percent and Cisco Systems Inc. dropped 17 percent.

On the plus side, BankAmerica Corp. shares rose 10 percent and Warner Lambert Co. was up 13 percent, while HFS Inc. jumped 38 percent. Kmart Corp. held steady, while Sears

Mr. Wien's errors have proved to be more consistent. Only two of the 10 chosen measurement dates coincided with

two of the 10 shares recommended by him turned out to be flops by the first quarter's roundup. Time has not improved them. Shares in Advanced Micro Devices Inc. slid a further \$3

in the past three months to \$20, compared with \$37 in July. Manpower Inc. continues to hover around \$39, well down from the level of \$47 when it was first mentioned.

Well worth listening to this time around were John Boich of Montgomery Asset Management in New York and John Leonard of Salomon Brothers Inc. in London.

Mr. Boich advised investors on Oct. 11 to buy shares in the British bus-maker Henley Group PLC before they rose 22 percent and the British transport company National Express Group PLC before they rose 28 percent.

Mr. Leonard cited Istituto Bancario San Paolo di Torino on Oct. 4. Shares in the Italian bank have since soared 46 percent.

Track Record of Investment Advice

EQUITIES													
Company Ticker Exchange	Sector	Who	Prediction	Issue	Price then	Price now	Fund Ticker Domestic	Type	Who	Prediction	Issue	Price then	Price now
Washington Post Co. WPO U.S.	Publishing	Scott Brack	Buy	Oct. 18	469.50	486.75	Latam Fund LATAMTY Brazil	Emerging market	Rupert Bruce	Buy	Oct. 18	24.538	20.9710
FUNDS, CLOSED-ENDED													
Fund Ticker Country	Objective	Who	Prediction	Issue	Price then	Price now							
Wilson & Horton Ltd. WHD New Zealand	Newspaper publisher	Dan Petersen	Buy	Oct. 26	11.300	9.70	Geselis Emerging Markets GSS Brokers	Emerging market	Rupert Bruce	Buy	Oct. 18	20.730 (NA) (NA)	15.6 (NA) (NA)
WorldCom Inc. WCOM U.S.	Telecommu- nications	Melvin Levy	Buy, No 1 11/1/92	Oct. 11	35.5625	35.6125	Korea Fund KF U.S.	Korea	Joe Rosenberg Lower Cap.	Buy	Dec. 6	5.9375 (-6.7%) (+35%)	5.0825 (7.1%) (+25.94%)
Yoshinoya Denki Co. WDI Japan	Food retailer	Kazuo Yanagisawa, analyst Daisuke Kikunomiya Benson	Buy	Nov. 15	1330000	1200000							
Zoro Corp. ZRO U.S.	Packaging	Jean-Marie Evensky	Buy	Oct. 11	27.9375	25.6250							
NATIONAL MARKETS													
Country or Topic	Index	Who	Prediction	Issue	Price then	Price now							
Australia	All Ordinaries index	Stefano Oliveri chief economist AMP Investments Australia Ltd.	+250 by mid-1995	Oct. 25	2361.30	2356.70							
Hong Kong	HSE	Hong Kong Qian Sun State Currency strategists Merrill Lynch & Co.	Substantially higher in 12 months	Dec. 27	10342.44	8352.36							
Romania	BET-10 (U.S.\$)	Douglas Helmer Eastern European specialist Foreign & Colonial Emerging Markets	Market set to rise c. 5%	Nov. 30	725.11	564.77							
Singapore	Sense Times	Karen Goh head of research Schroder Securities (Singapore)	1800 n.a.s. year	Dec. 27	1522.55	1253.82							
FUNDS, OPEN-ENDED													
Fund Ticker Domestic	Type	Who	Prediction	Issue	Price then	Price now							
Capital Int'l. Emerging CAPINEM Luxembourg	Emerging market	Rupert Bruce editor Global Fund Analysis Lipson	Buy	Oct. 18	24.50	20.390							
Source: Bloomberg													

The brothers quote investment homilies from their father and grandfather with frequency and reverence.

Walking with his grandfather in Manhattan one day, young Christopher asked for \$1 to buy a hot dog. Instead, he got a lecture on compounding. "He told me: 'If you invest that dollar wisely, it will double every five years. By the time you're my age, in 50 years, that dollar will be worth \$1,024. Is a hot dog really worth over \$1,000?'"

"I learned to always carry my own money," Christopher said.

New York Times Service

There are other ways to buy silver. You can buy bags of pre-1964 U.S. half-dollars, quarters and dimes, which have a silver content of 90 to 100 percent. A bag of old coins with a face value of \$1,000 was selling for \$5,150 last week, Mr. Kirsch said. Or you can buy new one-ounce silver coins, minted for collectors and silver-lovers by the United States, Canada, Australia and other countries. The retail price is a small premium over the market price of silver, which is now about \$7 an ounce. Similar gold coins are also available. A U.S. gold eagle was recently going for \$318.

Silver and gold are also sold as bullion, in the form of those 100-ounce bars you sometimes see in the movies. If you prefer, precious-metals dealers will hold the bars in a warehouse, giving you a certificate.

Finally, you can trade silver and gold on the commodities markets. But that is a game for experts or fools. Commodities futures contracts are sold with significant leverage; or, in stance, you can purchase 100 ounces of gold, worth about \$30,000, by putting up just \$3,000 in cash. If the gold price rises 10 percent, you double your money. Of course, if it falls 10 percent, you lose everything. And, if it falls 20 percent, you have to ante up another \$3,000.

But the main reason I have always stayed away from gold and silver is that they lack the main attraction of conventional stocks: the chance to profit from human imagination.

A business increases its earnings because the people who run it get a little smarter every year. They improve productivity, and sharehold- ers benefit. But the price of gold and silver—or their proxies in the form of stocks or mutual funds—you mainly own things, and things grow less important as people learn to put them to work more efficiently.

Washington Post Service

domestic, general-equity funds, excluding index-trackers, beat the FTSE All-Share, according to the study by HSCB Asset Management, a leading manager of index funds.

But over 10 years, the difference is striking: A mere 17.9 percent of funds beat the index. HSCB tried to give the active managers a sporting chance by deducting 0.75 percent per year from the return of the index to reflect management charges that would be incurred in an index fund.

Despite the poor comparisons, the study accepts that actively managed funds do have an edge over index-trackers in several circumstances.

"The best approach must be to fit the choice of active or index funds to an individual's investment requirement," it said. "Active funds have a clear advantage where higher levels of [dividend] income are needed or a more specialized sector exposure is sought. Also, the nature of swings in the economic cycle can create opportunities which active managers can look to exploit." (IHT)

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St. John, British Isles, HM 44N
E-mail: isom@ccr.com
TEL: +44 1624 818544
FAX: +44 1624 817073

MAURITIUS • REZA JANGSANGKARN US LMR
Happy World House, Sir William
Houston Street, Port Louis, Mauritius
TEL: +230 211 5100 FAX: +330 211 5400

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World Roundup

The Norman Angle

GOLF Greg Norman's golf game took a nose-dive on Friday after he spent much of the day fending off questions over a possible connection with the Bill Clinton-Monica Lewinsky case.

Norman found his concentration affected so much by the off-course grilling that he shot a one-over-par 73 in the second round of the Greg Norman International tournament in Sydney, leaving him seven strokes off the lead at the halfway stage.

Norman said suggestions that the former White House intern Monica Lewinsky accompanied the president when he visited Norman's Florida home last year were untrue and had deeply upset him. "I should never have been included in this — just because I know the president of the United States they figured I might be fair game," an angry Norman said.

"I feel sorry for the president," Norman added. "What he does in his private life is his business."

Clinton's visit to Norman's home made headlines in March when the president tripped and injured his knee. (Reuters)

3,000 Record Broken

ATHLETICS Daniel Komen of Kenya set a world indoor record of 7 minutes 24.90 seconds in the men's 3,000 meters Friday night at the Samsung Cup international competition in Budapest. It was the second time in a week the record had been smashed. Last Sunday, Haile Gebrselassie of Ethiopia clocked 7:26.14 in Stuttgart. (AP)

England Is Fired Up

RUGBY England says it sees Saturday's clash with France as the high point of the season. "The adrenaline is burning more than before the games against South Africa and New Zealand when we were the underdogs," Coach Clive Woodward said Friday after England held a training session at the Stade de France, the new French national stadium in a north Paris suburb. "The pitch is perfect," Woodward said of the field that needed 48 hours' special heating to defrost it for the match. (Reuters)

Knoblauch to Yanks

BASEBALL The New York Yankees have agreed to a trade that will bring them Chuck Knoblauch, one of the game's premier second basemen. They have settled on the four minor-leaguers they will send to the Minnesota Twins in exchange, the most prominent of whom is Eric Milton, their top pitching prospect. (NYT)

Graf Aiming for Paris

TENNIS Steffi Graf will return to competitive tennis at the Paris Open next week after being sidelined for seven months with a knee injury, tournament organizers said Friday. (Reuters)

Austrians Downcast on Downhill

To Rivals' Consternation, Favorites Complain About This and That

By Amy Shipley
Washington Post Service

HAKUBA, Japan — Weighed down by high expectations in the Olympic alpine events, some Austrian ski team members were in decidedly poor spirits Friday, just 48 hours before Sunday's prestigious downhill event.

Hermann Maier, the Austrian who is favored to win medals in three races, says the Happono downhill course does not suit him one bit — it's too easy.

WINTER OLYMPICS

Five of his teammates, meanwhile, are fighting over their nation's last Olympic team spot, worried that they won't make the cut for the men's downhill although all are among the world's best skiers.

"I am slow," Werner Franz said somberly, despite finishing in fifth place in a trial run on Friday, 0.49 seconds off of first but not good enough to secure an Austrian team spot.

The Americans, who have learned to celebrate top 10 finishes, seem tired of the grumbling from the Austrians, the undisputed kings of the international hills. While the Austrians settle the agonizing issue of which brilliant cards they will lay on the table for Sunday's downhill, the U.S. skiers — none of whom are favored for a medal — roll their eyes at the Austrians' complaints.

"It's talk," said the American rookie Jason Rosener, who skied to a U.S.-best 10th-place finish in the trial run. "It's the Austrians. The Austrians never perform well at the Olympics. They are

always looking for something to complain about. I don't pay attention. I'm sick of it."

The Austrians indeed have struggled in the last two Winter Olympics, while the U.S. men overachieved dramatically in 1994 with Tommy Moe's gold and silver medals.

The American skiers like to say they play for keeps at the Winter Games. They theorize that the Austrians are so concerned about accruing World Cup points that they treat the Olympics like any other competition. In the last two Olympics, the Austrian men managed two golds and three bronze medals in alpine skiing, low by that nation's high skiing standards.

Moe, who has not yet broken into the top 20 in a trial run here but won the downhill gold in 1994, has remarked that all the Europeans gripe too much when they leave their home continent. For them, Moe said this week, "one week in Japan is three weeks too long."

On Friday, the only happy Austrian team members seemed to be Andreas Schifferer, who prequalified for a downhill spot, and Hannes Trinkl, who earned a place with his No. 2 finish in a trial Friday. After the trial, Trinkl looked so elated that an observer might have thought he had been awarded a gold medal early.

Maier was also given a bye onto the downhill team, but he seems uncomfortable with this newly laid out course.

"Today, I had a lot of problems," Maier said. "I was not so fast today. I hope I'm faster tomorrow and Sunday."

It's flat here. A lot of skiers can win here in the downhill. It's not so technical, so that's a little bit of a problem."

Maier, 25, certainly has proven his ability to overcome. After being rejected by a private ski school in his hometown of Flachau at age 15 because he was too short and had bad knees, Maier landed a job as a bricklayer. In his spare time, he continued training. It wasn't until 1996, when he won a major European championship, that his countrymen began taking him seriously.

Maier wasn't even competing on the World Cup circuit three years ago — he was still laying bricks.

"I was not unhappy, but I looked at all the races and tried everything I could to come back," Maier said. "Now, here I am."

With a huge lead in the World Cup standings, he is expected to become the first Austrian in 28 years to win the overall World Cup title.

Saying 'Best Games Ever' in Japanese

New York Times Service

NAGANO, Japan — It has been a long time since the Best Games Ever were held — in Lillehammer, Norway, in February of 1994, if any of us can remember back that far.

The Best Games Ever did not take place in Atlanta in 1996, mainly because people were stuck in yellow school buses on the Interstate while the organizers seemed more interested in selling a ton of T-shirts.

When Juan Antonio Samaranch proclaimed the 1996 Summer Games as the greatest Games ever held in Fulton County, Georgia, the damnation-by-faint-praise did not escape the locals.

The president of the International Olympic Committee could say "Best Games Ever" in dozens of African languages, Mandarin and Cantonese, Iroquois, Finnish, Hindi, and is fairly aching to bestow these honors in Japanese.

The potentially Best Games Ever were opened Saturday, the closest to the equator the Winter Games have ever been held, in a town allegedly with palm trees.

But there is more than enough snow on the mountains ringing Almost Heaven, West Nagano.

This prosaic and friendly little city, elevated to Olympic status by the wisdom of the IOC delegates, did its best Saturday on a sunny and warm morning, with a decidedly Japanese touch that included sumo wrestlers, ceremonial wooden pillars, and an emperor and empress.

There was also a shadow hanging over the opening, the threat of a major military action by the United States against Iraq in the next week or two unless there is some resolution of the standoff concerning inspections of weapons.

In the past, Samaranch has made open appeals to "Please, stop the fighting," to whoever was fighting at the moment. He used whatever cachet the Olympic movement has to call for peace in the former Yugoslavia in 1994 as the Winter Games took place in the peaceful snowy hills of Norway.

Then, there were candles flickering along the Storgata, the main street of rustic Lillehammer, and intense Nor-



Hannes Trinkl of Austria on his way to earning a place Friday.

VANTAGE POINT/GEORGE VECSEY

wegians collecting signatures and Samaranch visited Sarajevo, a sister Olympic city. However, Baghdad is not an Olympic city, and while Samaranch once again called for peace in the world Saturday morning, he seemed to know he was not going to talk the United States out of doing whatever it is going to do.

"Our force is limited, as you know," Samaranch said Friday. "Somebody asked if I contacted President Clinton. The last time we spoke was during the Atlanta Olympic Games. President Clinton is a great president, an outstanding politician, and I am sure he will find diplomatic means to convince Iraq's president to respect international law."

In the not-so-distant past, American presidents and Russian presidents and Cuban presidents have deprived their

athletes of the chance to compete, in order to make some protest or political stand.

Now, Samaranch seemed to be saying, "Please, stop the politics." He was going to run a sporting event with global ramifications and leave the politics to the bombers and the bombers.

Samaranch may also be fighting a difficult battle against doping, "a kind of cheating that we cannot afford," he called it. The Chinese seem to be carrying around trunkfuls of performance-enhancing chemicals, most recently to the world swimming championships in Perth, Australia, where their stashes were uncovered almost by accident by a customs inspection. This week, Samaranch voiced the hope that customs officials around the world would aid in the struggle.

4 Years Later, Harding Says 'Sorry' to Kerrigan

The Associated Press

Tonya apologized and Nancy forgave her — sort of.

"I would like to apologize again for being in the wrong place at the wrong time and with the wrong people," Tonya Harding said to Nancy Kerrigan during the figure skaters' first meeting since the Lillehammer Olympics four years ago, an interview that was broadcast Thursday night on Fox.

"If I would have known, I would have done anything I could to stop it," Harding said. "It was the attack in which Kerrigan's knee was hit with a collapsible baton by associates of Harding just weeks before the Olympics."

Kerrigan appeared uncomfortable with the apology, and Fox did not show her response. But when Harding apologized again at the end of the interview, Kerrigan did give a half-hearted acceptance.

"I am glad you moved on and I hope that you can find happiness and maybe children can learn from these mistakes," Kerrigan said.

The program featured most of the principals in this real-life soap opera, including the former Jeff Gillooly, Harding's former husband, who changed his name to Jeff Stone after serving a prison term for racketeering in the attack.

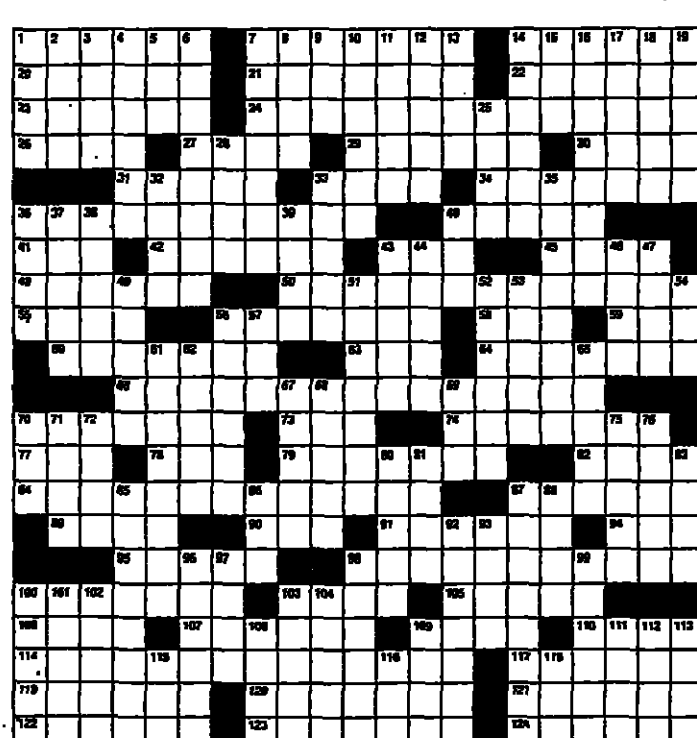
Kerrigan said she could not believe Harding did not know in advance of the plan to attack at the Olympic trials in Detroit. Neither can Gillooly, who said Harding "gave the go sign" — an accusation that Harding denies.

"I could never hurt anyone — ever," she said.

While both women hoped to put the bizarre episode to rest with the interview, they knew that would not happen. "It will always be there," Kerrigan said. "It will be brought up every time there is an Olympics."

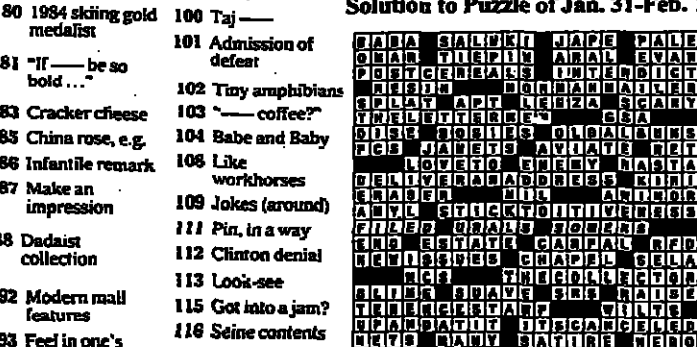
THE MORNING AFTER By Manny Nosowsky

- ACROSS
- 1 Some calisthenics
- 7 Hardly stars
- 14 Promote
- 26 Avoid
- 21 Japanese art of flower arranging
- 22 Take away
- 23 Gave in church
- 24 Indexed early man?
- 26 Ancient porch
- 27 "— of troubles": Hamlet
- 29 Secret devices
- 30 It may lead to a strike
- 31 Twisted person
- 33 Some campers
- 34 Wall Street worker
- 36 Reply to "Is it Mr. or Professor Chomsky?"
- 40 Together
- 41 Hit climber
- 42 Like fabric by the yard
- 43 How some people seem to know
- 45 Old despot
- 48 Hugs
- 50 Staten Island Ferry litter?
- 55 Enterprise log
- 56 Toast for the holidays
- 58 Long time
- 59 Its cap, is Charleston
- 60 Showed, with "out"
- 63 Kind of test
- 64 They battle the Indians
- 66 Reply to "How many Senators are there, child?"
- 70 Big name in computers
- 73 Friction eases
- 74 Wire
- 77 One of the Whitneys
- 78 From — Z
- 79 Oxford university since 1844
- 82 Part
- 84 Molly Pitcher, for example?
- 87 Sang
- 88 Indochine locale
- 90 East, in Essen
- 91 Electronic snop
- 94 Words with word or way
- 95 Low voice
- 98 What the overheated passengers called the airline?
- 100 Nightclub charge
- 103 Line up well
- 105 Static
- 106 Brews
- 107 Site for Sears
- 109 Chairs for prayers?
- 110 Answer, in brief
- 114 Question about a flashlight that lacks batteries?
- 117 Precisely
- 118 Sharp on track
- 120 "I like that"
- 121 Family split?
- 122 Like the other evil
- 123 Some kids' bedtime reading
- 124 Nike rival
- DOWN
- 1 NCO club members
- 56 Continued
- 2 Vacate
- 3 "For — us a child..."
- 4 Shocked
- 5 Common article
- 6 Some recyclables
- 7 "Great shot!"
- 8 Tex, neighbor
- 9 School org.
- 10 F.B.I. sting of the late '70s
- 11 Wall builder
- 12 Author Reginald and others
- 13 Sometimes cracked container
- 14 City whose name is Spanish for "ash tree"
- 15 TV ref.
- 16 Last of all
- 17 TV debut of U/452
- 18 "Luau" cartoonist Greg
- 19 Held another session
- 25 Portfolio contents, for short
- 26 "The — the limit"
- 32 Goes to bat
- 33 Some pointers
- 35 Wave catchers
- 36 Moolah
- 37 In the dark
- 38 "Wheel of Fortune" songstress, 1952
- 39 Has
- 40 Abbr. in car ads
- 43 Sizing up
- 44 Like some delites
- 46 "— forgive our debtors"
- 47 Go crazy
- 48 "Bottoms up!"
- 51 Walked awkwardly
- 52 Bloomsbury group member
- 53 "The Grapes of Wrath" family
- 54 More, in Monterey
- 56 Continued
- 57 Sumo(p)
- 61 80's TV adventure
- 62 Full chorus, in music
- 65 The first one opened in Detroit in 1962
- 67 Occupies quarters
- 68 Israeli city on the Gulf of Aqaba
- 69 Some radios
- 70 Bunny boss, briefly
- 71 Director Kazan
- 72 Pete topplers
- 75 Was admitted to
- 76 "Maria —" (1933 song)
- 80 1984 sliding gold medalist
- 81 "It — be so bold..."
- 83 Cracker cheese
- 85 China rose, e.g.
- 86 Infantile remark
- 87 Make an impression
- 88 Deduct collection
- 92 Modern mail feature
- 93 Fed in one's bones
- 96 Fort — (where Billy the Kid was gunned down)
- 97 Dirty stuff
- 98 Mismatch
- 99 Bubble
- 100 Taj —
- 101 Admission of defeat
- 102 Tiny amphibians
- 103 "— coffee?"
- 104 Babe and Baby
- 106 Like workhorses
- 109 Jokes (around)
- 111 Pin, in a way
- 112 Clinton denial
- 113 Look-see
- 115 Got into a jam?
- 116 Seine contents
- 118 Full of: Suffix



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Solution to Puzzle of Jan. 31-Feb. 1



GAMES: Opening the Competition With a Call for World Peace

Continued from Page 1

The themes of transporting unity and accord into the 21st century resonated throughout the opening ceremonies.

Some 2,000 balloons shaped like doves were released into the air, carrying messages of peace written by the children of Nagano. An underlying message in the third post-war Olympic Games hosted by Japan is its desire to reckon with an expansionist past by promoting a future of peace and friendship.

"The Japanese have a considerable responsibility for the wars of the first half of the century," Keita Asari, the executive producer of the opening ceremonies, said earlier this week. "From that perspective, peace in the century ahead has a particular significance."

The opening ceremonies avoided ostentation in favor of simplicity, hospitality and efficiency. As well as a festival of solidarity and athleticism, the Nagano Games are viewed as an homage to the beauty of nature. The exterior of the opening ceremonies stadium is shaped like petals of a cherry blossom, Japan's national flower.

The ceremony began with the solemn ringing of a bell from the Zenkoji temple, the spiritual heart of Nagano. Eight wooden pillars, hewn from trees felled in local forests, were erected in pairs to signify the four gates of the stadium. Akebono, the massive grand champion sumo wrestler, then entered the stadium to perform a purification ritual. Dressed in a loincloth in the 40-degree chill, the 516-pound (235 kilogram) wrestler stamped his feet in a ritual driving out of evil spirits, symbolically readying the Nagano Games for contests of sportsmanship and fair play.

"Being from Hawaii, I don't know too much about the Winter Olympics," said Akebono, a native of Oahu whose given name is Chad Rowan. "It's exciting. We're probably the first sumo wrestlers to ever be in the opening ceremonies."

Sumo wrestlers also accompanied each of the 72 Olympic delegations into the stadium, walking hand in hand with schoolchildren. Included in the parade of nations were Kenya, Azerbaijan, Venezuela, Macedonia and Uruguay, which were all participating in the

Winter Games for the first time.

Carrying the flag for the United States delegation, which consists of 196 athletes, was the three-time Olympian Eric Flaim, a speed skater who has previously won two silver medals. He seemed a curious choice to many, considering that he qualified as a pool member of the short-track relay team and may not compete at these Winter Games. Flaim, 30, of Boston, said he was dedicating his flag-carrying honor to his late father, Rico, who got him involved in winter sports.

"It's always a thrill," he said of the opening ceremonies. "Everyone starts chanting 'U.S.A.' The thrill of the crowd and joy of the Games overwhelms you."

Greeting the Japanese delegation from the royal box were Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko. The country has enjoyed limited success in the Winter Games, and its most famous medalists played significant roles in the opening ceremonies. Yukio Kasaya, a ski jumper and the only Japanese athlete to win an individual gold medal in the Winter Games, helped carry the Olympic flag into the stadium. Kenji Ogiwara, who won two gold medals as part of the Nordic combined team event, delivered the athletes' oath. And Ito, whose silver medal at the 1992 Winter Games is the only medal ever won by a Japanese figure skater, lit the Olympic cauldron.

Preliminary rounds of the Olympic hockey tournament began after Saturday's opening ceremonies, with the first full day of competition set for Sunday in the men's downhill, snowboarding, speed skating and the pairs short program in figure skating. Heavy snow is forecast, which could force a postponement of the downhill race.

After exorbitant budget increases, early lack of public support and a bitter controversy over placing the start of the national park, the Nagano Games began with a sense of anticipation and relief.

"The Games will work," said Anita woman to serve as vice president of the IOC. "Nobody thought they would, but they will."

in this clogged city of 360,000, IOC members seemed satisfied that Nagano would avoid the traffic and technological failures of the 1996 Summer Games in Atlanta.

What remains to be seen is whether the IOC appeals for an Olympic truce will hold during the Nagano Games, which end on Feb. 22. The Japanese Foreign Minister, Keizo Obuchi, has urged the United States to refrain from hostilities during what he called the "last sports festival of peace this century."

IOC Votes In 9 New Members

Ira Berkow of The New York Times reported from Nagano:

Nine new members have been voted onto the International Olympic Committee, and two of them were of royal blood. His Royal Highness the Prince of Orange of the Netherlands and His Royal Highness the Prince Henri de Luxembourg are official members of royal families.

"I don't think that we are especially well-stocked with members of royalty," said Francois Carrard, the director general of the IOC. "We have a rather large complement of regular people. But I don't see why someone should be barred from membership just because they have a title. That would be reverse discrimination."

The rest of the new members reflect a different makeup of the organization. Two are women: Irena Szewinska of Poland, winner of seven Olympic medals, including a gold medal in the long jump in 1976, and Nawal el Moutawakel of Morocco, also a gold-medalist Olympian in the hurdles in 1994.

The others named Friday were Major General Mounir Sabet of Egypt, Meliton Sanchez Rivas of Panama, Dr. Leopold Wallner of Austria, Ser Miang of Singapore and Mohammad Samih Moudallal of Syria.

For a long time, the IOC has fought the reputation that it is a melange of stuffed shirts, who take an archly particular attitude in general and in particular when they smugly decide which cities will get the Olympic Games. The addition of even a pair of royal individuals may not detract from that view.

SCOREBOARD

WRESTLING

Wrestling Scores

Wrestling Scores

Wrestling Scores

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SPORTS

Pantheon Agrees: Jordan's the Best

By Frank Litsky
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — They are legends in the annals of professional basketball — Bob Cousy, Bill Russell, Bill Bradley, Bob Pettit and Red Auerbach.

They took part in the first NBA Gala, a fund-raising dinner to benefit needy retired players, and like the rest of the world they said that they were in awe of the heroics of the modern star of stars, Michael Jordan.

Awards were given at the dinner to Cousy, Bradley, Auerbach, Oscar Robertson, George Mikan, Dave Bing and Jerry Buss. The presenters included Russell, Pettit, Muhammad Ali, Dave DeBusschere, Tom Heinsohn, Jamaal Wilkes and the Reverend Jesse Jackson.

A popular subject of conversation was the amazing Jordan, the Chicago Bulls' superstar. Unlike many older sports heroes who prefer the good old days, many of the legends here called Jordan the best player ever.

"I agree with everyone else in the world," said Cousy, the supreme point guard, "that Michael Jordan is the best player ever to play this game, by far. Next would be a lot of guys, from Magic Johnson to Larry Bird to Oscar Robertson to Jerry West. But Michael stands head and shoulders above

everyone else. He's the complete package. And despite his \$36 million salary, he has always had a sense of responsibility on and off the floor as a role model."

Cousy marveled at Jordan's agility. "When I jumped as high as I could," Cousy said, "I touched the bottom of the net. When Michael jumps, he hits the top of the backboard."

Russell, the best defensive center ever, said the modern game was not really different from the one he played.

"The players today were introduced to a different game than I was introduced to," he said, "but it's still basketball. Michael would have been successful any time basketball has been played — past, present and future. And he's a very fine person. That's what I like the most about him."

Auerbach, who coached Cousy and Russell with the Celtics, ranked Jordan No. 1.

"He's met every challenge ever put in front of him," Auerbach said. "He plays great defense. He plays hard. We all know about his offense. His passing is good. He's a fierce competitor. It's very hard to lead the league in scoring when you're a guard, but he keeps doing it. If I'm starting a team, the first guy I'd pick is Russell because you can't win without the ball and Russell will get you the ball, but Jordan will be on that team."



2 TOPS 1 — Duke's Roshown McLeod baffling North Carolina's Vince Carter in Chapel Hill. The No. 2-ranked Tar Heels beat No. 1 Duke, 97-73.

Some Eclipsed Stars

The All-Star Weekend this weekend will not have anything to do with six of the 50 greatest players in National Basketball Association history. The New York Times reported.

Because of injury or the fact that they simply were not voted onto the team, perennial All-Stars Patrick Ewing, Charles Barkley, Clyde Drexler, Hakeem Olajuwon, Scottie Pippen and John Stockton will not be on the court when the game begins Sunday at Madison Square Garden in New York.

Handing Football Off to the Writers

International Herald Tribune

GRAT news! A writer is trying to buy the Minnesota Vikings. Tom Clancy, who writes political thrillers, leads the group that has offered an NFL-record \$200 million for the team. One of the current owners is claiming he has the right to match the offer, but Clancy, bless him, is confident that the NFL commissioner will rule in his favor within two weeks.

"I don't know how it is in Minneapolis," Clancy said this week, "but back where I live, you can't spin a dead cat around your head without hitting two lawyers, which may be the best thing to do to a lawyer. The best competent legal advice I have is that it's a done deal."

This is the finest thing to happen to the written word for some time. A few generations ago baseball was the game in this country, and it was a writer's game. There was time to think and sit around and tell stories, and there was no television. Then the NFL came along and married itself to television like a gigo to a rich heiress.

The NFL has been hell for sportswriters. We always end up writing about the instant-replay. That's no way to tell a story, by describing what it looked like in slow motion, to judge the success of a man by whether some computer-enhanced technology decided that both of his feet were in bounds. But that is what moving pictures have made of us. We are a people of broken spirit. So pull up your pants, brothers, and look who's in charge now! I know, somebody is going to point out that much of Clancy's popularity and money have resulted from the movies made from his books — "The Hunt for Red October," "Clear and Present Danger" and "Patriot Games."

IN AMERICA/IAN THOMSEN

But I happen to know that Mr. Clancy wasn't altogether happy with the way his stories were treated by the big screen. From what I'm told he put up one hell of a fight. That's enough to make me believe that writers — sportswriters, specifically — are going to become a priority in Minnesota.

I imagine the first thing Mr. Clancy's going to want to improve will be the stories about his new team. A loquacious, hirsute man like him — when he reads the uninspiring banalities and "no comment" responses emanating from the locker room, he's going to feel like somebody poured asinine in his morning coffee. He's going to take a more active interest, and that's going to include opening the locker room to writers 24 hours a day, and by that I mean writers talking to players and observing their behavior first-hand before the games, at halftime, and escorting them back inside afterward.

UNTIL HIS team gets the hang of the new regime, Clancy is probably going to preside over press conferences. Let's say I want to ask the coach where on God's green earth he came up with the ridiculous idea of a screen pass inside the 10-yard line. In the status quo, if I'm lucky, all I hear is silence. But in the near future Clancy is going to be on the scene with his seersucker suit and corn-cob pipe, saying, "Answer the question, coach." When the coach argues that he won't be made a fool of, his owner — his owner — will look at his pocket watch and respond, "As Mark Twain once said, 'Let us be thankful for the fools. But for them the rest of us could not succeed.'"

We'll all have a good, thoughtful, hearty laugh. I'm guessing that the inspiration-dripping slogans that currently fill the walls of NFL locker rooms — "Be a champion — today!" — will be replaced with more noble thoughts.

By trying we can easily learn to endure adversity. Another man's. I mean (Mark Twain, from "Following the Equator," Chapter 39.)

The Vikings used to be one of the most romantic, dominant teams when they played outdoors. Mr. Clancy will probably tear the roof off of that domed stadium in Minneapolis and reintroduce the Vikings to their frozen, provocative roots.

"Honey?" That's my wife reading over my shoulder as I write. I love it when she does that. "I think you're missing the point about Tom Clancy."

How could that possibly be, dearest?

"You're making him out to be this Mark Twain-like figure, when in fact he writes technical novels about weapons and spies."

I think I know a little bit more about it than all that.

"Really? You referred to him as hirsute. That means he's covered with hair."

I mean, sure, of course I know what hirsute means.

"For all you know he might turn out to be as uptight and secretive as the characters in his novels. Have you even read any of his books?"

Well, no. But I have seen the movies.

Ian Thomsen is a senior writer at Sports Illustrated magazine.

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL

MAJOR COLLEGE SCORES

North Carolina 97, Duke 73	Arizona 112, Washington 81
Utah 63, Brigham Young 68	Oregon 97, UCLA 81
New Mexico 89, Wyoming 59	Arizona State 100, Washington State 67
Michigan 74, Northwestern 67	Cincinnati 109, DePaul 73
George Washington 82, La Salle 65	

EUROLEAGUE

Group A	Maccabi Tel Aviv 87, Turk Telekom 76
Group B	Estudiantes 80, Real Madrid 65
Group C	PAOK Salonika 61, CSKA Moscow 59
Group D	Benetton Trieste 96, Limoges 70
Group E	Pau-Orthez 89, Alba Berlin 75
Group F	Borussia Dortmund 84, Olympique Lyon 65
Group G	Kidder Belfort 69, Paris 55, Germany 52
Group H	Teamoys, Bologna 80, Ulster, Turkey 74
Group I	Chonka Zagreb 84, Partizan Belgrade 66

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE			
Team	W	L	Pct
Atlanta	27	17	.613
Charlotte	25	21	.543
Orlando	23	24	.489
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DAVE BARRY

The Drive to Rage

MIAMI—If you do much driving on our nation's highways, you've probably noticed that, more and more often, bullets are coming through your windshield. This is a common sign of Road Rage, which the opinion-makers in the news media have decided is a serious problem, currently ranking just behind global warming and several points ahead of Asia.

How widespread is Road Rage? To answer that question, researchers for the National Institute of Traffic Safety recently did a study in which they drove on the interstate highway system in a specially equipped observation van. By the third day, they were deliberately running other motorists off the road.

"These people are MORONS!" was their official report.

That is the main cause of Road Rage: The realization that many of your fellow motorists have the same brain structure as a cashew. The most common example, of course, is the motorist who

people are CONSTANTLY cutting us off, and AFTER A WHILE WE START TO FEEL SOME RAGE, O.K.? YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT, MISTER NEWS MEDIA OPINION-MAKER??

In addition to Road Rage, I frequently experience Parking Lot Rage, which occurs when I pull into a crowded supermarket parking lot, and I see people get into their car, clearly ready to leave, so I stop my car and wait for them to vacate the spot, and . . . nothing happens! They just stay there! WHAT THE HELL ARE THEY DOING IN THERE?!!! COOKING DINNER???

When I finally get into the supermarket, I often experience Shopping Cart Rage. This is caused by the people—and you just KNOW these are the same people who always drive in the left-hand lane—who routinely manage, by careful placement, to block the entire aisle with a single shopping cart. If we want to keep

This is a serious problem, just behind global warming.

course, is the motorist who

feels a need to drive in the left-hand lane, even though they are going slower than everybody else. Nobody knows why these motorists do this. Maybe they belong to some kind of religious cult that believes the right lane is sacred and must never come in direct contact with tires. Maybe one time, years ago, these motorists happened to be driving in the left lane when their favorite song came on the radio, so they've driven over there ever since, in hopes that the radio will play that song again.

But whatever makes these people drive this way, there's nothing you can do about it. You can honk at them but it will have no effect. People have been honking at them for years: It's a normal part of their environment. They've decided that, for some mysterious reason, wherever they drive, there is honking. They choose not to ponder this mystery any further, lest they overburden their cashews.

I am very familiar with this problem, because I live and drive in Miami, which proudly bills itself as The Inappropriate Lane-Driving Capital of the World. So the tiny minority of us Miami drivers who actually qualify as normal find ourselves constantly being trapped behind people drifting along on the interstate at the speed of diseased livestock, while at the same time we are being tailgated and occasionally bumped from behind by testosterone-deranged youths who got their driver training from watching the space-fighter battle scenes in "Star Wars." And of course nobody

EVER signals or yields, and

about two dozen to block the entire Mexican border.

What makes the supermarket congestion even worse is that shoppers are taking longer and longer to decide what to buy, because every product in America now comes in an insane number of styles and sizes. For example, I recently went to the supermarket to get orange juice. For just one brand of orange juice, Tropicana, I had to decide whether I wanted Original, Homestyle, Pulp Plus, Double Vitamin C, Grove-stand, Calcium or Old Fashioned; I also had to decide whether I wanted the 16-ounce, 32-ounce, 64-ounce, 96-ounce or six-pack size. This is WAY too many product choices. It caused me to experience Way Too Many Product Choices Rage.

I would have called Tropicana and complained, but I probably would have wound up experiencing Automated Phone Answering System Rage ("... For questions about Pulp Plus in the 32-ounce size, press 23. For questions about Pulp Plus in the 64-ounce size, press 24. For questions about...").

My point is that there are many causes for rage in our modern world, and if we're going to avoid unnecessary violence, we all need to "keep our cool." So let's try to be more considerate. O.K.? Otherwise I will kill you.

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Taking the Skeleton Route in St. Moritz

International Herald Tribune

ST. MORITZ, Switzerland — Protected by a helmet, pads on his knees, elbows and fists, and by his own mad daring, the rider careers head first down the iced curves of the Cresta Run on a small metal toboggan aptly called a skeleton. The Cresta Run is on the outskirts of St. Moritz, just past the DKNY shop, or past Bulgari and Vuitton if one takes a longer route. Meanwhile, in the lower town the chaplain at the English church is at the ready to make a house call or a hospital visit.

It isn't quite that simple or frequent, of course, but the Cresta Run and the local Anglican church have

MARY BLUME

been closely tied since the last century and they come together annually at the club ball in London, happily held the same week as the Anglican synod, and weekly at the church's Evensong service. Held between sport and cocktails with no sermon and lots of hymns, Evensong is the ideal Cresta Run service. "The English love to sing, it reminds them of public school," says the chaplain, Brent Fisher.

These days Evensong is the church's sole service and the sang building itself, 125 years old, has been sold to the Swiss Reformed Church which leads it to the Anglicans for the winter season. Fisher is an amiable American Presbyterian who studied at Princeton, Edinburgh and in Germany. Fluent in German, he came to St. Moritz five years ago as the Reformed Church pastor, then took over the unpaid job of chaplain to the English community when his predecessor retired and there were no funds for a replacement.

"It's just an accident that I happen to be English-speaking. After a fashion of course, for the British," he added. There is no English congregation any more, he says, just guests who happen to be here. He is on friendly terms with the Cresta members although, unlike his Anglican predecessor who was a club officer, he wouldn't dream of diving down the Cresta Run.

"Somehow I've managed to wiggle out of it each year. You can be crippled for life on that crazy thing," Fisher prefers to snow-board because he can just sit down if he gets tired. The world of the St. Moritz Tobogganing Club, its official name, is curious, he says. "It's like being back at prep school, it's basically a big boys' club."

Women rode the Cresta Run back in the 1890s when they had to wear cumbersome skirts, but they have been banned from riding for safety reasons since the 1920s although they can still be members. Only on the last day of the season,

hour, with the rider's face about four inches from the ice. The club's fastest rider, Lord Wrotesley, is in his 20s; Prince Constantin of Liechtenstein still rides at 85. The top of the 1,212-meter run is called Top, curves have such names as Curzon and Brabazon; the most respectable is called Shuttlecock and to fly out of Shuttlecock, in club parlance, is not what one wants to do though almost everyone has.

Like all clubs the Cresta is exclusive and costly (though, as a member pointed out a while back, cheaper than tiger shooting) and likes to see itself as welcoming, within limits. Nonmembers can ride for a fee and a

Derbyshire of Europe," said Dr. Johnson's friend, Mrs. Thrale — they came in summer, often tubercular, traveling in groups with their local vicar and, if they had followed the advice of the London Times, umbrellas, walking sticks, peppermints and whistles.

In 1864, the same year that St. Moritz opened Switzerland's first tourist board, the canny Johannes Badrutt invited four Englishmen to spend the winter at his hotel free of charge, promising to reimburse their return fares to London if they were not delighted by the sun and clean air. They were and winter sports began.

Generations of riders have gone to the great Shuttlecock in the sky, but the club retains a time-warped atmosphere. "The appeal is that it is an amateur sport, we believe in comradeship," says Richard Robbins, an assistant secretary. "We're not here to compete in this boring professional way. It's about having a club and all the good things a club embodies."

"It is among the last amateur sports in the world. We take great pride in this," Willoughby said. Since the sport is practiced nowhere else, there is no one to compete against. "We are unique."

"You don't get into the club by your riding. It is an English club, you get in by getting on with people," Willoughby was raised in India, served in Borneo and says he only attends the community's Anglican church at Christmas, when he reads the Lesson.

Not many people do attend the church services these days, except at Christmas. At a recent Evensong there were only seven people but luckily Brent Fisher, who attended choir school at St. Thomas's in New York, has a soaring baritone voice. Attendance may have been low that evening because of the Burns Night dinner, though it has been known to drop to three. After the service, Fisher as usual served sherry in the manse. Then he donned the clergyman's dress tartan vest (a sort of subdued Black Watch) and went to join the club members around the haggis, which a killed member had tobogganed down the Cresta Run that morning.

Women have been barred since the 1920s; here, Mrs. Arden Bott completing a run in the 1890s.

the first weekend of March, does Lieutenant Colonel Digby Willoughby, the club secretary, send down wives or relations of members. "Just the Cresta family," he says. The Anglican church closes for the season on the same day.

On the club's walls, near the busy bar, are signs like "Bad Behavior Will Scupper the Boat" and an announcement of a Burns Night party featuring the Cresta haggis, shipped out by a Scots member. International membership, the club has a British president, secretary and membership committee ("If we allowed the Swiss on the committee, they'd let in people wearing funny hats," a member explained). Speeds can reach 90 miles an

few years back a London bus driver did. It should be added that he drives the Number 19 bus which, going from Piccadilly to Chelsea, is the smartest bus route in town.

Riding takes place in the morning when the ice is firm and beginners are summoned at 7:30 for instruction by Arno von Bohlen and Halbach, known as the Guru. At 8 they are called into the presence of Willoughby for what is known as the Death Talk, illustrated by a collage of X-rays showing members' injuries, including von Bohlen's broken left and right femurs and shoulder, Willoughby's broken neck and the alarming-looking liver of an American senator.

The aim is to bring everyone to

afraid," says Willoughby. From a tower he comments on each rider's style ("neck swaying but better control than yesterday") and sometimes on their clothes ("that ghastly rubber suit"). Many riders wear skintight Lycra but the more traditional and attractive outfit worn since the club's beginnings in 1884 consists of a pullover with necktie, tweed breeches and heavy wool socks. For riding, prongs are attached to the toes of lightweight boots.

The Cresta Run is in part a result of St. Moritz's 19th-century attempts to attract a British clientele, which continue today with polo, cricket and horse racing on ice. If the English have long felt an affinity to Switzerland — "the

PEOPLE

THE founder of the Teddy Bear Museum in Stratford-upon-Avon, England, is trying to broker a deal with the New York City Public Library to bring Winnie-the-Pooh back to Britain for a visit. Gyles Brandreth, a friend of the late Christopher Robin Milne, who was the subject of the children's classics by A.A. Milne, also suggested that the beloved bear could go on a world tour to mark the millennium. "There is no question about it. Pooh and his friends should stay in New York," Brandreth said. But, he said, "He doesn't belong to any country. He belongs to the world. . . I'm trying to arrange a compromise for the animals to come to Britain on vacation." The fate of the five stuffed animals has dominated headlines on both sides of the Atlantic this week after Gwyneth Dunwoody, a Labour member of Parliament called for the return of "The Pooh Five." They were donated to New York library 11 years ago by E.P. Dutton, the publisher of the original Winnie-the-Pooh book in 1926.

Jean-Claude Van Damme, the kick-boxing action-movie star, got a knock-down punch from a former bodyguard, the New York Post said Friday. Van Damme was at the Scores nightclub in New York with a group of friends, when he got into an argument with the former guard, Chuck Zito, who concluded the argument with a single punch that put Van Damme on the carpet. The star managed to leave the nightclub on his own steam, signing autographs on the way out.

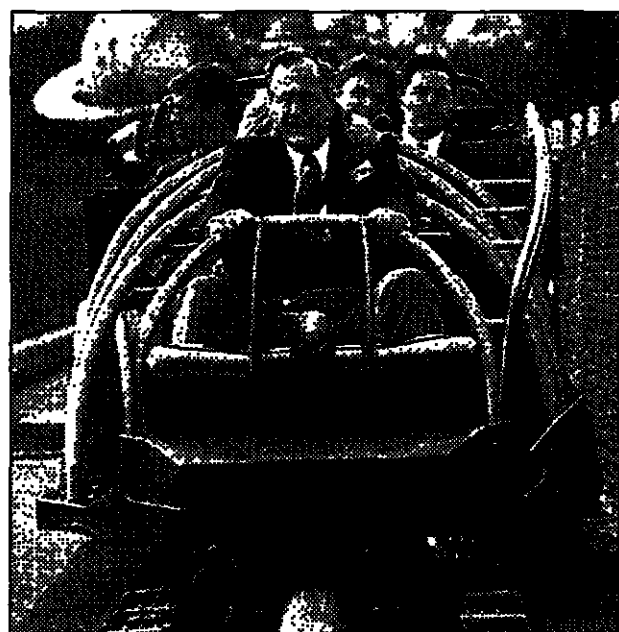
Luciano Pavarotti is suffering from hypertension and will be resting until the end of March. The tenor said he had canceled all his engagements and was heading for Barbados with his companion, Nicoletta Mantovani.

The actor Daniel Baldwin was discharged from the New York hospital where he had been treated since he al-

legedly went on a drug-induced rampage at the Plaza Hotel. He is scheduled to appear in court May 18 on charges of possession of a controlled substance and use of drug paraphernalia.

Former President George Bush took a test ride on the new "Rocket Rods" attraction during a visit to Disneyland in Anaheim, California. Bush later spoke at a Points of Light Foundation dinner at the Disneyland Hotel.

The Portuguese minister for parliamentary affairs was battered in the face with a cod as he opened an exhibition in the northern city of Braga. "That'll teach you how to govern," Antonio Costa's assailant proclaimed as he slapped the minister several times with the fish. After wiping his face, Costa ventured: "He must be the only Portuguese who doesn't like cod."



George Bush at the helm of a new Disneyland ride.

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